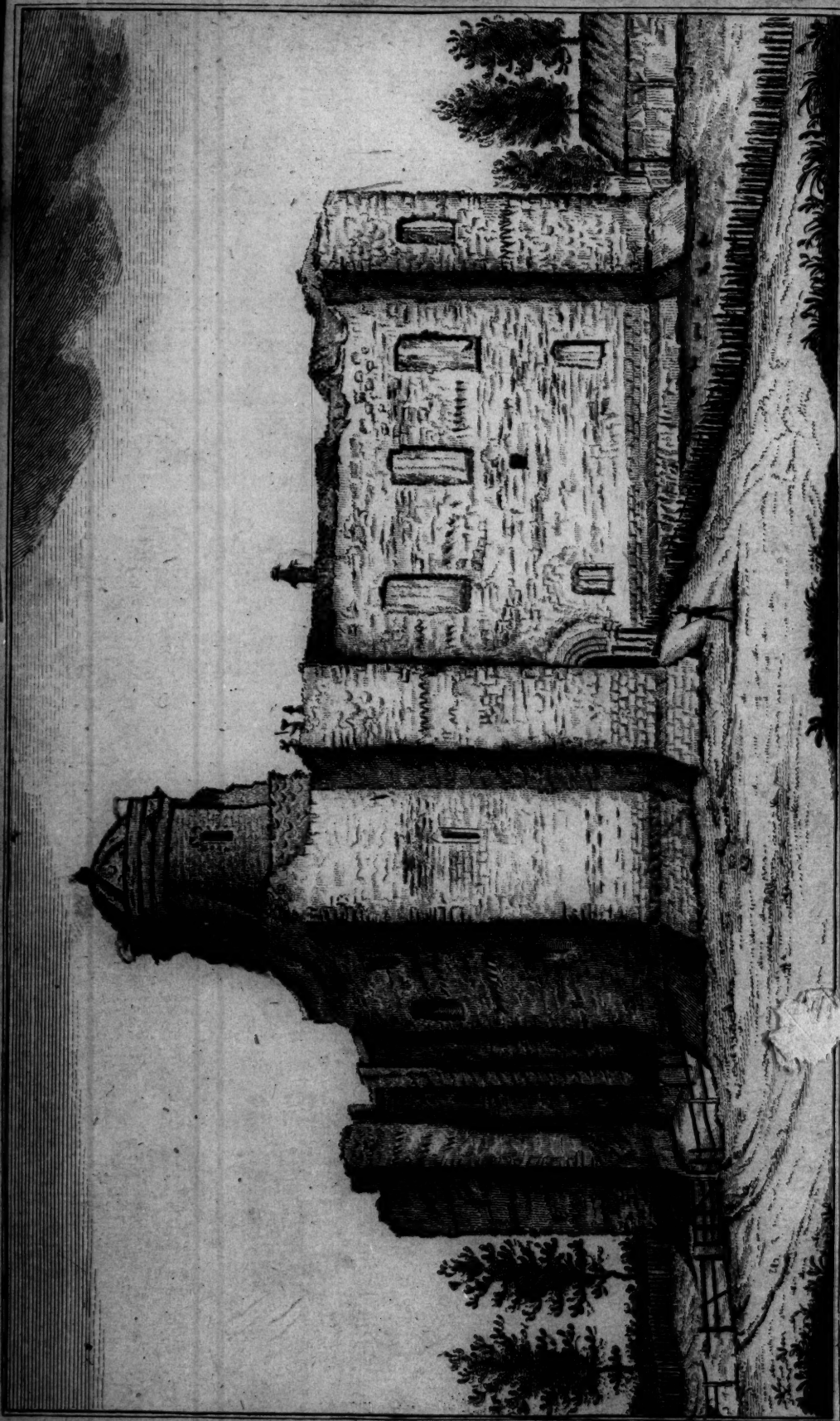
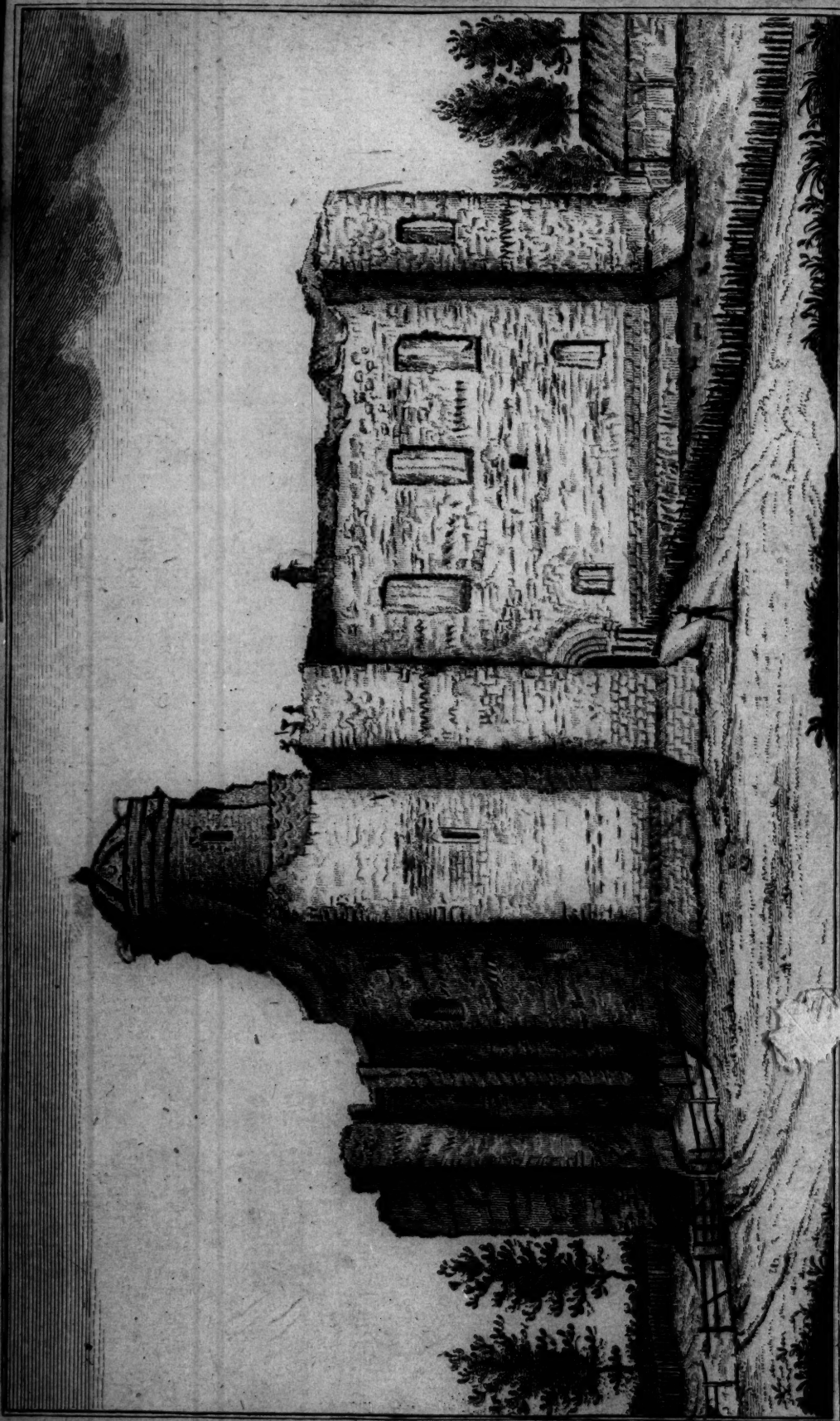




W. B. 1840

South West View of Colchester Castle

J. Reading Sculp.



W. B. 1840

South West View of Colchester Castle

J. Reading Sculp.

THE
HISTORY
AND
ANTIQUITIES
OF
COLCHESTER,

In the County of ESSEX. ✧

CONTAINING

A General Account of the Place, whence derived—State of the Town under the Britans, Romans, Saxons, Danes, Norman Kings and their Successors—The Trade of the Town, Market-Days and Fairs, Privileges, Charters, Half-year Lands, Bounds and Extent of its Liberties—Government of the Corporation—The

several Parishes and their Livings—Gifts and Benefactions to the Corporation and their Parishes—Account of the Free Schools—Together with a complete List of the Members of Parliament of this Borough from the Reign of Edward the First to the present Time—With many other interesting Particulars.

Selected from the most approved Authors.

COLCHESTER:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY J. FENNO,

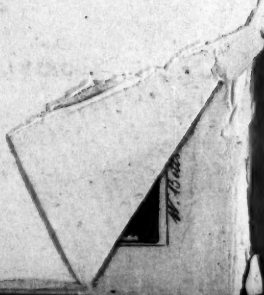
BOOKSELLER, BINDER, AND STATIONER, OPPOSITE THE GEORGE
IN THE HIGH STREET.

MDCCLXXXIX.

THE
MUSEUM
OF
THE
CITY OF
NEW YORK
AND
THE
COUNTY OF
MADISON
NEW YORK
1852



THE
MUSEUM
OF
THE
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To the READER.

THE Editor of this Work, from the recent encouragement conferred on his late Publication,* thinks he should be much wanting in duty and gratitude, was he not at this time to return his most heart-felt thanks for their warm reception of a Work which was become so scarce, and perhaps in a few years, not a single copy would have been found in the hands of any one; but, by their support, many may be found in various parts of the country a century hence.

THE HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF COLCHESTER, equally, (if not more so) calls for your generous aid and encouragement, as it will be found not only useful to travellers, but likewise to those who reside in or near the same; being a Work capable of furnishing them with an extensive knowledge of the most useful and interesting particulars of that ancient place.

As this Work is chiefly collected from the late celebrated Mr. MORANT, whose indefatigable industry in the selecting every thing that was in the least curious or worthy of remark, past not unnoticed by him, the Editor will be careful in
not

* The Siege of Colchester.

not omitting such as appears useful or instructing, but only such as contain the disputes of opinion with various Authors of History of this and other counties.

Concerning the materials from which this Work was collected, it may not be improper to say, that they lie for the most part scattered in bulky volumes, which equally forbid the purchase of the poor, and discourage the perusal of the opulent. The following Compilation, may therefore lay claim to the indulgence of the public, as conveying a fund of information, at present unknown to many, even of the oldest inhabitant.

It is no small satisfaction to the Editor to learn from every quarter of this and the neighbouring counties, that his endeavours to give the public pleasing and profitable communications meet with general approbation; and, that he no sooner completes one Publication, but he introduces another as a fit companion with the former.

He flatters himself that his numerous readers, (which he is happy to find increasing) have observed the great exertions made by him in his former Work; and assures them, that he will in this also, preserve not only with assiduity the several Heads, but likewise adorn it with such Engravings as will elucidate the Stores of Antiquity, History and Science.

(2)

THE
HISTORY
AND
ANTIQUITIES
OF
COLCHESTER.

General Account of the Place.

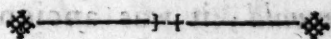
THE ancient town of Colchester lies in the north-east of the county of Essex, fifty-one measured miles from London; the situation of it is very convenient, for it stands so near the sea as to have all the advantages of it; excellent fish, especially oysters; and water-carriage, the hoys and lighters coming up to the Hythe; and it lies far enough from the sea to be free from damps and all noxious vapours. The town stands upon the north side of a fine eminence, rising gradually from the river Colne, which waters the north and east sides of it, by that means agreeable prospects appear on every side, some extending even several miles into the country; and that position greatly contributes to the healthfulness,

B

fulness, as well as pleasantness of the place. The soil is various; within the walls it is sandy, chiefly a rich black sand, which is very suitable for gardening, and all sorts of roots; and, for that reason, the town is better supplied with things of that nature, than most places in the kingdom, except London: in general the soil is sandy, and upon that account a wet season is most agreeable, and it suffers much in a drought. In some parts within the walls is a fine yellow gravel, sixty foot from the surface of the earth. Though the town stands on the side of a high hill, yet it is well supplied with water, the north and lowest part of it is washed by the river Colne: many fine springs rise in divers places, particularly one near *Magdalen-Street*, called *Childwell*; another in the *Castle-Lands*; another down the *Balkon-Hill*, &c. but none are medical. Wells are also common even in the highest parts of the town, and well supplied, though some are twenty yards from the surface of the ground; but the water in many is hard. About the year 1620, pipes or trunks were laid down for conveying water from a spring in *Chiswell Meadow*, at the north-west part of the town, in the parish of *St. Mary*, which ran through one of the arches at the *Balkon*, into the *Three-Crowns* garden, from whence the chief part of the town was well supplied with excellent spring water. These waters continued in a flourishing condition for near thirty years, they were afterwards neglected, and soon came to nothing, to the great prejudice of the inhabitants, and the inexpressible danger of the town, in case a fire should happen.

Over

Over the river Colne, are three bridges; *North-Bridge*, leading to *North-Gate*; *East-Bridge*, to *East-Gate*; and the *Hythe-Bridge*, at the *Hythe*; the middle one is of timber, the other two of brick. These bridges are now kept up by the Corporation.



The great or main Streets.

THE first street as you come into the town from London, is *Crouch-Street*.

That part which is continued in a straight line beyond *Head-Gate*, is *Gutter-Street*.

The first street within *Head-Gate*, as far as the *Three-Crowns*, is *Head-Street*.

From thence to *North-Gate*, is *North-Hill*.

The street leading from *North-Gate* to *North-Bridge*, is *Middleburgh*.

From the *Bridge* towards *Mile-End*, is *North-Street*, alias, *Cow-Lane*.

The great or main street, from the *Three-Crowns* to *East-Gate*, is the *High-Street*, or *Market-Place*, part of it was formerly called *Corn-Hill*.

Near *All-Saints Church*, it is named *King-Street*; and that part of it which runs along the wall of the late *Grey Friars* was anciently called *Frere* or *Freris-Street*.

Without *East-Gate*, is *East-Hill*: beyond that, *East-Street*.

From the *High-Street*, by the east-end of *All-Saints Church*, to *St. Botolph's-Gate*, is *Queen's-Street*, formerly called *South-Gate-Street*.

Without that gate, *St. Botolph's-Street*, sometimes called *South-Street*.

The long street leading from thence to the *Hythe*, is called *Magdalen-Street*, because part of it lieth in the parish of *St. Mary Magdalen*; though in reality the greater part of it is in the parishes of *St. Botolph*, *St. Giles*, and *St. Runwald*; it was anciently called *Heth-Street*, because it leads to the *Hythe*: but when it first turns out of *St. Botolph's-Street*, it is called *Grub-Street*.

From the *High-Street*, by the east-end of *St. Nicholas's Church*, winding to *St. Botolph's-Gate*, is *Wyre*, or *Wier-Street*.

Stonewell or *Stanwell-Street*, is that which leads east south-east from *Gutter-Street*, or *Schere-Gate*, to *St. John's-Green*,

The Lanes and Alleys.

IN *Crouch-Street*, on the north-side, is *Plough-Alley*, by the Ale-house, formerly the *Plough*, but now the *King's-Arms*.

The *Balkon*, or *Balkorne-Lane*, leading along the *Balkon*, in the town-wall, on the south-side, is *Maldon-Lane*, leading towards that town; the upper part of it was called *Schrebb-Street*.

Butt-Lane, in which were formerly the butts for shooting at with bows and arrows: It was anciently called *Holmer's-Lane*, and also *Lyard-Lane*, because leading to *Laver*, which used to be sometimes written *Lyard*.

In

In *Head-Street*, on the west-side, is *Church-Lane*, near *Head-Gate*; and higher up, *St. Mary's-Lane*, both leading to *St. Mary's Church*.

On the east-side is *Sir Isaac Rebow's Walk*, a lane leading from *Head-gate* towards *Schere-gate*.

Culver-Lane, or the *Back-Lane*, reaching from this street as far as *Queen's-Street*: There comes into it *Trinity-Lane*, or *Schere-Street*, going by the west-end of *Trinity-Church*, and leading to *Schere-Gate*.

The *Lion-Walk*, facing the back gate of the *Red Lion Inn*; 'twas formerly called *Cat-Lane*; also part of *Wyre-Street*.

By *Trinity Poores-Row*, there is *Alms-house-Lane*; and, east of the same, *Elde-Lane*, which falls into *Wyre-Street*.

On *North-Hill*, on the east-side; is *Duck-Lane*; near which is the *Cistern-Yard*, wherein water was formerly brought by leaden pipes from *Chiswell-Meadow*.

At the end of *Duck-Lane*, more east, is *Little-Hill*.

On the west-side there are only a few yards with houses, but without any authentic names.

Without *North-Gate*, on the east-side, there is *Dead*, or *Dead-Man's-Lane*.

Down-fall-Yard.

On the west-side the *Balkon-Lane*; in which there is the *Shepen*, or *Rayner's-Lane*.

Water-Lane.

Soap-house-Yard.

The lanes in the *High-Street*, on the north-side, are *Angel-Lane*, formerly called *West-Stockwell-Street*.

Bear-Lane, or *St. Martin's-Lane*, formerly called *East-Stockwell-Street*.

The

The *George-Yard*.

St. Helen's-Lane, in which formerly stood *St. Helen's Chapel*; it is vulgarly called *Tennant's-Lane*, but anciently was named *Maidenburgh-Street*.

Two nameless Lanes, leading into the *Castle-Bailey*. There formerly stood a strong wall belonging to the *Castle*.

On the south-side, is *Pelham's-Lane*, formerly called *Whitefoot's-Lane*, the further end whereof comes into *Culver-Lane*.

The Lanes and Yards in the *Angel-Lane*: On the east-side, is the *Dromedary*, or *Ostrich-Yard*.

Quaker's-Alley, along the north-side of *St. Martin's Church*.

At the bottom of *St. Martin's-Lane*, is the *Ball-Alley*.

Between *St. Martin's-Lane* and *St. Helen's*, is *Bucklersbury-Lane*; otherwise *Peacock's-Alley*; or *Meeting-house-Alley*.

The Lanes upon *East-Hill*: On the south-side, is *More*, or *More-elms-Lane*, running along the outside of the town-wall, and falling into *St. Botolph's-Street*; so named from the *More*, or Garden thereto adjoining, and belonging to *St. Botolph's Priory*.

On the south-east side of it, there is *Childwell-Lane*, leading to *Childwell*.

Opposite to the west-end of *More-Lane*, in *St. Botolph's Street*, is *Black-Boy-Lane*, anciently called *Beer-Lane*.

In *East-Street*, is *Water-Lane*, leading to *Magdalen-Green*, on the south-side of that street.

In *Magdalen-Street*, on the south-side, is *Wimbles-Lane*, leading from *Magdalen-Green* to *Canwick-Mill*.

Hog-Lane,

Hog-Lane, by *Wennock's Alms-Houses*.

Lodder's-Lane; or, as vulgarly called *Ladder-Lane*, leads southerly from *Gutter-Street*, or *Schere-Gate*, to *St. John's-Green*.

When these streets and lanes were first paved, we cannot exactly determine; but we find, that in the year 1473, a man was presented for breaking up the pavement in *Wyre-Street*; which is a certain proof that this street was then paved, as were undoubtedly some others; but the whole town was not effectually paved till the reign of King James I. for that purpose, an act was passed in the year 1623, but no act wants amending and explaining more than this.

The walls in this town are in many places still standing, but very much decayed; they are built of stone, such as is found in our eastern coast, with a mixture of Roman bricks. The cement is excellent, and incredibly strong; but it suffers much in winter, especially in great rains, attended with sudden frosts and thaws. Where the walls remain perfect, it is faced either with Roman brick, or square stones about seven or eight inches in diameter; the thickness of it is various, in most parts seven or eight feet thick, but about the gates it is much thicker. The circumference of the whole wall measures 562 rods, 7 feet and an half: the form of the walls is near a trapezium, the longest sides whereof are the north and south.

Colchester being unquestionably a Roman town, it is very probable that the walls were originally built by
the

the Romans. They were afterwards repaired by King Edward the Elder, and Richard the Second; and, in the sixteenth year of the latter's reign he granted his royal licence to Ralph Algar, Stephen Baron, and Henry Bosse, empowering them to grant and assign two messuages, four acres of land, and the advowson of the hospital of the Holy Cross, to the Bailiffs and Commonality, and their Successors, as a help towards mending and repairing the walls of the town.

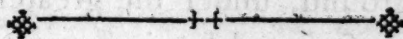
Thus, through the care of our magistracy, these walls continued in a tolerable condition; and, on account of them, the town was looked upon a place of some strength, before those murdering engines, cannons and mortars were brought to their full perfection; but then, as it could make but little resistance, it became less considerable. The unhappy siege, in 1648, was a great hurt to them, as it was also to the rest of the town. At present, instead of being duly repaired by the Chamberlains as usual, they are chiefly kept up as a fence by those that have gardens or other grounds adjoining thereto.

In these walls there were four gates; *Head-Gate*, called in records *Heved* or *Haved-Gate*; and in Latin, *Porta capitalis*. *North-Gate*, *East-Gate*, and *St. Botolph's-Gate*, anciently called *South-Gate*. *East-Gate* fell down in 1651, and in the place where it stood, were afterwards erected two brick pillars, just at the pitch of the Hill. There are also three posterns; the west postern, in *St. Mary's Church-Yard*; but when the church was rebuilt, that postern being low and inconvenient,

venient, part of the wall was taken down in order to enlarge the passage, and stone tops made, instead of the sloping ascent there.

Schere-Gate, called in records *South-Scherde*, or *Posfern*.

Rye-Gate, as it is vulgarly called; or rather *Rhee*, or *Rea-Gate*, that is, the *River-Gate*, as leading to the river; anciently named the *North-Scherde*; it was taken down in the year 1659.



Account of the Castle.

THIS stately pile stands on the north-side of the *High-Street*, almost opposite to *All-Saints Church*. It is a square of about 224 yards in circumference on the outside, all projections and windings included. The four sides lie nearly to the four principal points of the compass. The building consists of the outer walls 12 feet thick in the lower story, and 11 in the upper, flanked at the corners, with strong and lofty towers: On the inside there run, north and south, two strong parallel walls, which served for partitions and supports to the several apartments, but the greatest part of the westernmost wall is taken down. The easternmost is built in the Roman, that is, the herring-bone fashion.

The gate of the Castle is on the south-side; and within, on the left hand, and in the south-west tower, is the grand stair-case. On the right hand as you go in, is a large vault above ground, well arched; over
c which,

which, out of a door leading from the grand stair-case, was the passage into the chapel: This stands in the south-east tower, or rather bastion, being strongly arched at the top; the length of it from east to west, is 47 feet; the width of it from north to south 40 feet, where widest; and the height proportionable. Below it is a good arched vault, now used for a prison, or bridewell.

Within the ground, under the greatest part of the Castle, there are fine and spacious vaults; they were discovered not above seventy years ago, being full of sand on which the arches were turned; the sand was taken out at a considerable expence, by John Wheely, who was endeavouring to pull the Castle down; and, to carry off the sand, he cut a cart-way through the foundation-wall near the north-east corner, where the wall is 30 feet thick, but it did not answer expectation. The partition in these vaults supporting the arches, is exactly in the form of a cross.

This whole building is a mixture of stone and Roman bricks; but most of the Roman bricks are in broken pieces, taken from the ruins of more ancient edifices formerly standing in this town. The corners of the walls, and sides of the doors, windings, &c. are of free stone.

It suffered extremely from the ill-judged attempt of John Wheely, who purchased it of the late Robert Northfolk, Esq. with intent and upon condition to demolish it entirely, and make money of the materials.

For

For this purpose many of the Roman bricks were taken away and sold, with most part of the free stone at the quoins and inward arches of the building. A fine well was destroyed, and the tops of the towers and walls forced down with screws, or blown up with gunpowder, and thrown upon the heads of the arched vaults below, in such large weights, and with so great violence, as to break one of the finest of them. But after great divestations, the remaining parts of the walls being so strongly cemented, that the profit did not answer the charges of further demolition, he was forced to desist. It is now carefully preserved by the present worthy owner James Round, Esq.

Just within the entrance of the Castle, are some small clumsy images of Helen, Constantine, &c. carved in the stones, but visibly modern. There is also an inscription in four short lines, which some pretend cannot be read, but appears nothing more than, *ALVAENOR ROGER, CHAMBYRLEYNAN.* — — — — — God, and a few other words in capitals, which appear to have been done about the reign of Edward III.

The Castle-Yard was formerly encompassed on the south and west-sides by a strong wall, in which were two gates; that on the south was the chief. This wall was taken down by Robt. Northfolk, Esq. who erected in the room of it a range of houses, now standing in the *High-Street*. The west wall reached as far as the east-side of *St. Helen's-Lane*. On the north and east sides, the Castle was secured by a deep ditch, and strong ramparts of earth, which are now taken into

the gardens of Mrs. Gray. This rampart is thrown upon a wall, that formerly encompassed either Castle or the Palace of Coel, (on the site whereof the Castle is built;) the buttresses and other parts of which wall have not been many years discovered.

The tithes wherewith the Chapel in the Castle was originally endowed, belonged afterwards to St. John's Abbey; for, Eudo Dapifer founded that monastery, granted unto it, among other things, OMNES PROVENTUS CAPELLÆ IN CASTELLO DE COLICESTREA; that is, "all the profits of the Chapel in the Castle of Colchester:" which was confirmed afterwards by King Richard I. under the title of CAPELLAM CASTELLI COLCESTRE, CUM DECIMIS & OBVENTIONIBUS; that is, "the Chapel of the Castle of Colchester, with the tithes and obventions." From what lands these tithes accrued appears from this authentic list of them:

The Castell Baylie with the Gardens adjoyning next the strete.

The great Garden on the north-side of the Castell.

Mr. Symnell's Field on the north-side of his house.

One acre of grasse in the King's Meade.

Two parcells of lande next the King's Meade, now or late in the tenure of Mr. John Bird.

Two acres of grasse in the Rowin Meade,

One parcell of meadowe by Rowin Meade, late in the hands of William Moulde.

Fourteen acres of lande belonging to St. Helen's,

The tithe of a parcell of meade next Rye-Gate, belonging to St. Helen's.

One

One other parcell of meadowe next the Myddle-Mill.

The Myddle-Mill.

One parcell of wood.

The Hofte.

Sholand over-against the Spittell-Houfe.

Litell Sholand next adjoyning towards the fouth.

The Bromefields beyond Sholand on the fouth.

The long Strake on the other fide of the waye.

In confideration of thefe tithes, the Abbot of St. John's was obliged to find a Chaplain to officiate three days in every Week, either in St. Helen's Chapel, or in the Chapel within the Caſtle; as appears by the exemplification of a judgment paſſed in the Exchequer in the year 1290, between the King and the Bailiffs of Colcheſter of the one part, and the Abbot of St. John's on the other part. And the Abbot was then fined twelve marks for fix years neglect of that ſervice. After the diſſolution of monaſtries, the tithes were leaſed by King Henry VIII. to Edward Cole for twenty-one years; and afterwards granted, among others, by Queen Elizabeth, in the ſecond year of her reign, to Sir Francis Jobſon, Knt. whoſe ſon Edward died, ſeized thereof in 1590. After ſome immediate poſſeſſors, they came into the hands of Sir James Northfolk: of his ſon and ſon-in-law Robert Northfolk, and Hope Gifford, Eſqrs. and of Francis Powel, Clerk.

This Caſtle is ſaid by Norden to have been built by Edward the Elder. He repaired indeed the Town-Walls

Walls as have been observed before; and if there was any remains of Coel's Palace, he might perhaps bestow some pains in repairing of that too, and making it a kind of fortification. But the Castle in the manner it now stands, was undoubtedly built after the Norman Conquest, when fortresses were erected in most of the considerable towns in England, in order to awe the inhabitants, and keep them in subjection. Possibly too it was founded by Eudo, as it is asseſſed in the *Monaſtricon*, and IN FUNDO PALLATII COELIS QUONDAM REGIS, according to our *Colcheſter Chronicle*, anno 1076. The original proprietor of it was the King; and it continued in the Crown, when the Empreſs Maud granted it to Alberic de Vere, ancestor of the noble family of the De Veres Earls of Oxford; but, in all probability, though ſhe gave him the title, it was not in her power to give him poſſeſſion; it therefore remained in the Crown, till the year 1214, when King John granted it, with the Hundred of Tending, and the Borough, to Stephen Herringood during pleaſure.

King Henry III. in the year 1256, granted the Caſtle of Colcheſter, with its appurtenances, and the Hundred and Demesnes, worth 28l. per annum; together with the Fee-Farm of the town, which the Burgeſſes uſed to pay to the King, viz. 32l. 12s. 6d $\frac{1}{2}$. and 32s. and 7d $\frac{1}{2}$. for Blanc, to Guido de Rupeforti, or Rochfort, for his ſupport; and all the Eſcheats that would have fallen to the Crown, if the King had held the Caſtle in his own hands; reſerving to himſelf and his

his wood of Kingswood, the Judaism of the Town, and Liberty for the Sheriffs to enter the town and hundred, in order to levy the dues which were to be raised by summonce from the Exchequer, and their account for them; and to distrain for the debts of the Jews, as they used to do: and that the said Guido should keep the Castle in the same state as it was then in; and, after the decease of the said Guido, the Castle, &c. should revert to the Crown. The Patent is dated June 12 at Westminster; but Guido having, in 1258 grievously offended the King and the Barons, was banished, and deprived of all his goods.

On the 18th of December, 1273, King Edward I. granted this Castle, with the Hundred of Tendring, to John de Burgh for life; but he did not enjoy it so long; for, in 1275, it was granted to Richard de Holbrooke. His enjoyment of it was very short, since we find it given, the same year, to Laurence de Scaccario, Sheriff of Essex for the County Goal; and Demesnes belonging thereto were ordered to be ploughed and sown for the King's use.

The next possessor of it was Robert de Benhall, Knt. to whom it was given by King Edward III. for life; together with twenty-seven acres of meadow, a hundred and fourscore acres of arable, and two parts of a water-mill in Colchester; and the Hundred of Tendring, with 30s. rent in Essex.

In 1404, King Henry IV. granted this Castle, with the Fee-Farm of the town of Colchester, and the Hundred

fred of Tendring, to his son, Henry Duke of Gloucester; which grant was confirmed by the Parliament holden at Coventry, October 21.

King Henry VI. in the twenty-fifth year of his reign, gave this Castle, with the Hundred of Tendring, to his Queen Margaret.

Sir John Haward, Knt. is the next to whom it was granted, and for the term of his life; together with a Mill of two parts, and the Hundred of Tendring. This grant bears date July 6, 1461, the first of King Edward IVth's reign.

Thomas Kendale, anno 1485, the first of King Henry VII. obtained from that King the custody of this Castle; and of the King's Demefnes in Colchester, viz. 180 acres of land, 27 acres of meadow, 30s. rent, the Hundred of Tendring, and two parts of a Water-mill; but, in the eleventh of the same King, he surrendered his Patent into Chancery to be cancelled; upon which the Castle aforesaid, &c. were granted to John de Vere, Earl of Oxford.

This grant was renewed, and confirmed by King Henry VIII. in the first of his reign; and the premises continued several years in that noble family; the next possessors of it were, Thomas Lord Darcy, and Henry M^cWilliams.

On the 14th of December, 1599, Sir John Stanhope obtained a grant of this Castle, with 180 acres of land, arable and pasture, 27 acres of meadow, the
Hundred

Hundred of Tendring, two parts of a Water-mill, and the rent of 30s. per annum, after the death of M^r Williams, and during the life of Mary Lady Cheek; but, in 1603, he surrendered his Letters Patent, whereupon the premises were granted to him, for his own and his son's life, in as full and ample a manner as they had been enjoyed by Thomas Lord Darcy, John Earl of Oxford, and Henry M^r Williams.

In the year 1629, John Hay, Earl of Carlisle, obtained of King Charles I. the reversion, to him and his heirs for ever of the Castle of Colchester, &c. after the death of Charles Lord Stanhope, to be held of the Manor of East Greenwich in common socage, paying into the Exchequer 10l. yearly; but the Lord Stanhope survived him.

Not long after, the said Charles Lord Stanhope, Baron of Herrington, and Symon Potter, sold this Castle, with the Hundred of Tendring, to Sir James Northfolk, Serjeant at Arms to the House of Commons; his son Robert Northfolk, Esq. enjoyed it after him; but having impoverished himself by building the range of houses on the south-side of the Castle Bailey, he sold it on the 9th of May, 1683, to

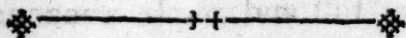
John Wheely, who purchased it in order to pull it down, and articed so to do, but not gaining thereby so much as he expected, he sold it to

Sir Isaac Rebow, Knt. and of his grandson Charles Chamberlain Rebow, Esq; it was afterwards bought by

Charles Gray, Esq. who also purchased of Northfolk's heirs, the upper and nether Bailey, and some

other lands adjoining, formerly parcel of the Castle demesnes. At the death of Charles Gray, Esq. the whole came into the hands of

James Round Esq. of Birch, the present owner.



Governors or Constables of the Castle,

AS FAR AS CAN BE FOUND UPON RECORD.

HEN. II. { **H** ——— De St. Clare, whose only daughter became the wife of

RIC. I. { William de Lanvallei; he gave King John
2. Johan. { 200 marks for the custody of it, as he had held it under King Richard I.

17. Joh. { William de Lanvallei, the son; his only daughter Hawyfe, was put under the wardship of

——— Hubert de Burgh, who married her to his son John de Burgh, and was made Constable of the Castle aforesaid; but, being disgraced and displaced, in the year

16. H. III. { Stephen de Segrave was put into his room.

In the year 1265, or 1266,

50 H. III. { E. Thomas de Clare was made Constable of this Castle.

2. EDW. I { William de Wayland appears to have been the next possessor of it; for he was then ordered to deliver the same to John de Burgh.

8. HEN.

8. H. IV. { William Dych was Keeper of this Castle.

7. H. V. { William Bardulph.

In the year 1428, John Exeter, and
Jacolet Germaine, were Keepers of the Castle of
Colchester.

1. H. VII. { Thomas Kendale.

The Lands belonging to the Castle, or that have
been generally granted by patent with it, are as fol-
lows :

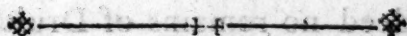
	acres.
The upper Bailey in which the Castle stands	8
The nether Bailey, or Sheepesendfield	5
Near the Grey-Friers-Wall	5
The Middle-Mill, with an acre of meadow	1
A Meadow, abutting north on East-River	3
In King's-Meadow	6
In the same	3
Parson's-Acre in the same	1
The Castle Lands,	50
Rowin-Mead	22
In Mile-End Parish. { Abutting south on King's-Meadow	6
{ Near the same, (all arable)	5
{ The Castle-Grove	10
In St. Mary's at the Wall. { Great Sholand	12
{ Little Sholand	8
{ Broomfield, abutting east of Maldon-Lane	12
{ The long Strake on the other side that Lane	2
The Bailiff's-Acre, in the parish of Tendring	1
	160
Besides several quit-rents amounting in all to 2l. 4s. 2d.	

This Castle, with the Bailey, is independent of the Corporation, and not within the bounds of any one of the parishes; but the same cannot be said of the Lands and Demesnes belonging thereto, or of which the Chapel there received tithes, as some have falsely imagined; for they lie in several parishes, and ought to be rated in them; all pretensions to the contrary being entirely groundless.

The town of Colchester hath heretofore been feudatory to the Castle, by rents and many other duties and services; but a discharge and exemption was purchased from Queen Elizabeth, and confirmed by Parliament in the beginning of her reign.

The donation of the office of Steward of the Hundred of Tendring in Essex, and the nomination of the Bailiff of that Hundred hath appertained to the proprietor of this Castle; and within, and for that Hundred, there is, and hath been from time immemorial, a Court holden always from three weeks to three weeks by the Steward. View of Frank Pledge hath also been held by prescription within twelve days next after the nativity of Christ, every year, by the Steward of the Hundred aforesaid; or his deputy, in the parishes of Ardleigh, Lawford, Mistle, Little Bromley, Tendring, Beaumont, and Allesford. The waste grounds and woods thereupon growing, within the precinct of the view of Frank Pledge aforesaid, belonging to the owners of the said Castle of Colchester; and those that fell these woods, or incroach upon the waste, have been punished at that Court. The Steward hath likewise

wife kept the Sheriff's Torne twice in every year, according to the form of the Statute at Tendring; to which Sheriff's Torne, the following towns or parishes within the said Hundred and County, do owe suit and service, viz. Ardleigh, Lawford, Little Bromley, Elmstead, Allesford, Bentley magna, Fratinge, Tendring, Mittley, Beaumont, Great and Little Okeley, Great Holland, Wrabnes, Ramsey, Weeks, and Bradfield.



Name of Colchester, whence derived.

WHAT name was given to this town by the ancient Britans, is not perfectly known, except it was Camudolhan, or Camalaunuidun, from whence was afterwards formed the word Camulodunum, or Camalodunum. The Romans, after having settled themselves therein, gave it the name of Colonia, and Colonia-Camulodunum; and from Calonia, both this town and the river Colne running by it, took their names.

There was great reason to believe, that here was a town even in the earliest times, if we consider the healthfulness and pleasant situation of the place, and its conveniency for all the uses and pleasures of life; and, if we consider also, that the country was covered with woods; for, according to Julius Cæsar, the strong towns or fortified places of the Britans were only thick woods, fenced with a ditch and a rampart, and rendered thereby difficult of access either to horse or foot.

It

It is well known, that woods were the habitations of the Druids, and their places of religious worship, and as they were the instructors of youth, the houses for their schools were situated in the midst of pleasant groves, though they had withal little arched, round stone buildings, capable of holding only one person; where the retired and contemplative Druid sat, when his oak could not shelter him from the weather.

Here are indeed no remains of Druidical temples, or altars, as there are in other countries, but that is to be imputed to the many revolutions and changes which this place and neighbourhood have undergone, and the thorough cultivation of it.

Great alterations have happened in the surface of the earth in a course of about 2000 years; even within the 200 years last past, Kingswood made a considerable appearance on the north-side of the town, but is entirely gone; and smaller parcels are cleared round it almost every year. On the north-side of the same, the Royal Forest reached as far as Lexden; but, in the fifth of King John, the whole north part of it, lying between Suffolk, and the road that leads from Colchester to Bishop's Stortford, was disafforested; notwithstanding which, this county is still fuller of wood than many others.

It is an undeniable proof of this town's being Camulodunum, as it was the royal seat, or residence of King Cunobeline; now, more of his coins have been, and

and are daily found at Colchester, than in any other part of the kingdom, both in gold, silver and brass.

It was afterwards mentioned by that excellent historian C. Tacitus, that the Colony at Camulodunum, reinforced with a strong body of veterans, was quartered in the new conquests, on purpose to hinder the Silures from making incursions; but they soon returned, it seems to Camulodunum, or else others were planted in their room. Which way soever it were, they behaved with intolerable insolence towards the natives; turning them out of their houses, dispossessing them of their fields, and calling them captives and slaves; moreover the Priests that served in the temple erected here in honor of Claudius, did, under pretence of religion, swallow their whole fortunes; and this temple itself was looked upon with a very evil eye, as a fortress built to keep them in everlasting bondage.

These were some of the motives which induced the old inhabitants to join the brave virago Boadicea, when provoked by the brutish and unnatural usage of the Romans, she made a vigorous effort to shake off their galling yoke, as will appear hereafter. They needed no persuasions to be zealous in her interest, spurred on as they were by their most violent hatred against the veterans; and they thought it no difficult matter to cut off the Colony, as it was defended by no walls or fortifications, which the Roman officers had very imprudently neglected, consulting the pleasant situation, rather than the strength of the place;

nay,

may, even at the approach of danger, they did not so much as take the precaution to encompass the town with a rampart and a ditch; nor to turn out the old people and the women. Thus remaining as careless and unconcerned as in profound peace, they were suddenly surrounded by the Britans; which like an overflowing torrent, swept all before them, and put whatever stood in their way to fire and sword. The strength of the garrison consisted only of a moderate number of soldiers, which threw themselves into the temple, but were taken in that place, and made prisoners after a two days siege. The procurator Catus Decianus sent them a small reinforcement of 200 men very ill armed; and the ninth legion coming to their relief, was routed, and all the infantry of it killed; the horse escaped to the camp; which camp is justly supposed to have been the same as is still to be seen on Lexden-Heath.

From this whole account of Tacitus, the following observations naturally will arise.

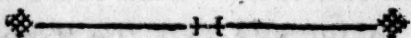
The amoenity and pleasant situation of the place, particularly taken notice of by that noble historian, do plainly point at this most agreeable spot of ground, healthfulness and good air, always regarded by the wise and elegant Romans, doth not by any means agree with Maldon, seated in one of the most unhealthy corners in the kingdom; but agrees very well with Colchester; for, to apply what the learned Dr. T. Gale improperly celebrates that inconsiderable place Waldon, for "The situation of this town (Colchester) is so wholesome

wholesome and pleasant, that nothing can be more so; the fields every where smile with the plenteous harvest, which is represented by a wheat-ear upon the coin of Cunobeline, who had his palace at this place; there is about it an agreeable variety of hills and groves, well adapted for the pleasures of riding, which is pretty clearly indicated by the horse on the coins of Cunobeline."

This agreeable situation the Romans improved into a charming retirement, consulting their pleasure more than advantage; which is a concurring proof that it must have been rather here than at Maldon; and it is more natural to suppose that the Romans would fix themselves, at their first coming over, in a place not far from the sea, whence they might have an easy retreat to the Continent, than go and entangle themselves so far as Walden: this stood much more in the way between Suffolk and Norfolk, and that great trading place London, than the town Maldon would have done.

That this was a very considerable Roman town, and that here was fixed their celebrated Colonia, we have all the evidence that can be desired. It is seated near the military Stoneway, from whence the neighbouring parish of Stanway took its name. There are many remarkable monuments of the Romans; sculptures and tombs; urns and the like vessels filled with burnt bones, dug in the adjacent fields, and innumerable coins; and that there are to be seen to this day immense quantities of Roman bricks, and other footsteps of that people;

ple; as evidently shew that very great numbers of Roman edifices were formerly standing here. The churches, town walls, and the castle, are half built with Roman materials, and in several parts of them the Roman workmanship is also copied. Roman pavements have been found in various parts of the town; and a most magnificent one at Mersea, which was most probably the Roman landing-place, it being upon a bold open shore, and proper for the purpose; whereas they could not get to the place now called Maldon, but by way of a creek up the country, quite dangerous to invaders.



State of the Town under the Britans.

THIS island was inhabited long before Julius Cæsar's invasion, that it may be laid down as a rule, that the inhabitants did not live without some form of government or other; undoubtedly it was the same as their neighbours the Celts, or Gauls, from whom they derived their origin. The eastern parts of England were peopled from the opposite Continent of Gaul. The country was divided into several small states or principalities; governed by magistrates, which in some places were annually chosen; but in case of war, they chose a general, or commander in chief; that they had a senate, or privy council: naturally were infinitely fond of liberty, and detested and abhorred slavery; and parties and factions, the effect of liberty, prevailed in all their communities, villages, and even houses.

State

State of the Town under the Romans.

JULIUS CÆSAR, as appears by his own relation, never visited those parts in his two expeditions; he landed in Kent, and crossed the country, and what is now called Surry, forded the Thames between Kingston and London; and penetrating into Cassivellaud's capital, extending his conquests no farther than part of Hertfordshire, and of Buckingham and Berkshire: satisfied with that small exploit, unworthy of his fame and the Roman name, he returned with a few hostages into Gaul, and never saw again the British dominions.

Among those that appeared in arms against him, were undoubtedly some of the inhabitants of this town or a district; for Cassivellaum, the British General, was king of the Trinobantes, whereof what is now called Essex was then a part. But what share they bore in this expedition, is not expressly mentioned. However, after this, their king had dismissed the bulk of his forces, and retained only small bodies with him to watch the enemies motions: the Trinobantes, styled by Julius Cæsar the most valiant people in the country, sent ambassadors to him with offers of submission; desiring him, at the same time, to protect Mandubrace from Cassivellaun's attempts and insults, and to send him to be their king or governor. Cæsar sent him accordingly, and received from them corn and hostages which he had required. Such was the end of

Julius Cæsar's mighty exploits here, which some flatterers extolled to the skies; but others who spoke more moderately, did not scruple to own that he hardly touched Britain; nay, that he shewed his back to the Britans.

After Julius Cæsar's departure from this island, the Britans continued unmolested for the space of above ninety years, being governed by their own kings, and paying tribute to the Romans.

Mandubrace was sent by Julius Cæsar, to take possession of the kingdom of Trinobantes. His successor was Tenuant, Lud's second son, of whom nothing memorable is recorded. He was succeeded by his son Cunobeline, who had a great friendship for the Romans, and punctually paid them tribute; many of this king's coins have been found in this town, which is a strong argument of its having been his capital, and not Maldon.

Claudius embarked at Ostia with a large army of horse, foot, and elephants; and disembarked at Marfeilles, and marched from thence by land to Gessoriacum, where shipping again his forces, he landed in Britain, and came and joined Plautius and Vaspasian, (two Roman senators, whom he had sent some time before him, but being afraid of their strength, sent for their emperor) near the Thames; having taken upon himself the command of the army, he passes the river, where the Britans boldly encounter him, and begin the fight, which for a long time they bravely maintained,

maintained, till great numbers of them were slain; at length being overpowered, they fled into the woods, and some were subdued by force, and others yielded upon terms. Claudius pursuing his victory, took Camulodunum, afterwards named Colchester, the royal seat of the late king Cunobeline, where he placed a colony of veterans, (from whence the town came to be called *Calonia* by way of eminence) and reduced this part of the isle into the form of a province.

In honor to this victory, Claudius was divers times saluted *Imperator*, contrary to the Roman custom, which permitted it but once in one expedition; after this, he ordered the Britans to be disarmed; but to those that yielded, he remitted the confiscation of their goods, which so endeared him to them, that they erected a temple and an altar to him at Camulodunum, and honored him as a God. Having thus settled this part of the island, he left it under the government of Plautius, with orders to subdue the rest.

The Emperor's stay in this island was but sixteen days, and his absence from Rome upon this expedition only six months in all: for this victory, anniversary games, triumphal arches, both of Rome and *Gesoriacum*, and lastly a glorious triumph were decreed him by the Senate; and the surname of *Britannicus* was entailed upon his family.

About the year of Christ, 48, Plautius being recalled, P. Ostorius Scapula is sent in his room, who
was

was the second pro-prætor, or lieutenant. At his arrival here, he found things in great disorder, the Britans that were yet unconquered making inroads into the territories of those that were in alliance with the Romans; and the more outrageously, because they supposed that the new general, unacquainted with the army, would hardly take the field in the beginning of winter. But Ostorius being sensible, that first events either begat fear or confidence, advanced against them with such forces as were ready; and putting those that resisted to the sword, so dispersed the rest, that they could not rally again. And because an unsafe and treacherous peace would be no security to the general or his army, he disarmed those that were suspicious; and, to check them, placed garrisons on the rivers Antona (Nen) and Sabrina (Severn.)

This check and confinement the Iceni were first to dislike; a powerful nation, and not yet weakened with war, because they had voluntarily entered into alliance with the Romans; by their persuasion, the adjoining nations rise in arms, and intrench themselves in a convenient place, fenced with a rude rampart of earth, and accessible by a narrow passage only, to prevent the entrance of the horse. Ostorius, though he wanted the strength of his legions, attempted that fence with the auxiliaries only; and having placed both horse and foot in due order, they broke down the rampart and attacked the Britans, pent up as they were in their own retrenchments. However, conscious of their guilt in rebelling, and having no way to escape, they

they fought desperately, and behaved themselves with great bravery.

By this defeat of the Iceni, other states that were fluctuating between war and peace, being settled and confirmed; Ostorius led his army against the Cangi, whose country he wasted as far as the coast of the Irish sea; but he was recalled thence by a sedition among the Brigantes, that is, the inhabitants of Yorkshire, Lancashire, &c. As for the Sibuers, that is, the inhabitants of South Wales, he found they were to be reduced neither by severity nor clemency, without a war and garrison; the more easy to effect this, the colony at Camulodunum, reinforced with a strong body of veterans, was quartered in the new conquest to be ready to quell any rebellion, and to insure the allies to law and good order.

Some years after, Suetonius Paulinus was successor; his first exploit was to reduce the isle of Anglesey, which had been a common place of refuge to the poor Britans, harrassed and driven out of their habitations by the invading Romans, and at that time the seat, and last residence of the Druids. While he was employed in this conquest, the Roman province, whereof this town was a part, rose in arms, in order to revenge the avarice and cruelty of their new tyrannical masters: the occasion was this, Prasutagus, king of the Iceni, famous a long time for his great riches, had left the Emperor co-heir with his two daughters; hoping, by this compliment, to secure both his kingdom and family from insults; but it happened quite otherwise,
for,

for, (under pretence of taking possession of the emperor's new inheritance) the kingdom became a prey to the centurions, and his house to the servants and other officers. His wife Boadicea was whipped, and his daughters ravished. As if the whole country had been given to the Romans, the chief of the Iceni were deprived of their paternal estates, and those of the blood royal treated as the meanest slaves; upon this insult, and for fear of worse, since they were now reduced to a province; the people began to reflect on the miseries of their slavery, to compare each other's misfortunes, and to aggravate every thing by the worst construction. "That their patience and easiness would only encourage their enemies to lay heavier burthens upon them. Heretofore every state had its own king, now they were subjected to two, the Lieutenant and the Procurator; the first preyed upon their blood, the second upon their estates. That the enmity and friendship of the governors proved equally pernicious; the one oppressed them with soldiers and officers, the other with violence and affronts; nothing escaped their covetousness and lusts. In war, the bravest had the spoil; but now they were pillaged by cowards and weaklings. These were the wretches that bereft them of their children, and pressed them at their pleasure for foreign service; as if the Britans could fight and die for any country but their own; for what vast numbers would they appear to have transported, if the Britans were to take account of their present strength. Thus Germany had shaken off the yoke, which has only a river to defend it, and not an ocean; that they had their country,

country, their wives and parents to fight for, and inspire them; while the others had only avarice and luxury. These would retreat as Julius Cæsar did, if the Britans would but imitate the bravery of their ancestors, and that the issue of one or two battles ought not to terrify them. That fierceness and resolution were the natural effects of misery; and even the Gods took compassion on them, in removing the Roman General, and keeping his army as it were banished in another island.

Highly provoked at these and the like outrages, the Iceni took arms, drawing over the Trinobantes to revolt with them, and such others as were not yet inured to slavery; who secretly conspired to recover their liberty with the utmost spite against the veterans: for these being newly planted in the colony Camulodunum, thrust the inhabitants from their houses, and dispossessed them of their lands, calling them captives and slaves; and were encouraged in such outrages by the younger soldiers, as well through a likeness in manners and profession, as in hopes of the same licentiousness. Moreover the Britans looked upon the temple built at Camulodunum in honor of Claudius, as the foundation or pledge of a perpetual tyranny; and the priests who served therein, under a shew of religion, consumed their whole estates. The colony itself the Britans considered as the seat of slavery: and fancied, there could be no great difficulty in overthrowing it, as it had no forts nor castles; for the Roman commanders had been so imprudent, as to consult pleasure

rather than use and service. The Britans, it seems, were mightily encouraged by some pretended prodigies, which on the other hand, threw the veterans into the utmost consternation. In this distress, as Suetonius was at so great a distance, they applied to Catus Decianus their procurator for help, who sent them not above two hundred men, and those ill armed. There was but a moderate garrison in the town, who relied wholly upon the strength and protection of the temple; and some that were privy to the conspiracy had so perplexed their counsels, that they had neither made trench nor ditch round it for their own defence, nor sent away the old people and women, reserving the youth only. Thus living securely and careless as in a profound peace, they were surprised and surrounded by the Britans. What things stood defenceless, were immediately over-run and plundered, or consumed by fire; the temple wherein the soldiers were crowded, stood a two days siege, and then was forced to yield. The victorious Britans meeting Petilius Cerialis, lieutenant of the ninth legion, who was coming to the Colony's assistance round the legion, and put what foot there was to the sword; Cerialis escaped with the horse into the camp, where he defended himself by the help of the fortifications. Catus the procurator, whose covetousness and the hatred of the province that ensued upon it, had been the cause of this calamity, cowardly fled to Gaul.

But Suetonius, with prodigious resolution, marched through the midst of the enemies to London, being
come

come thither, he could not presently resolve, whether to make that the seat of war, or not; but considering his want of soldiers, and how much Petilius had suffered for his rashness, he determined to sacrifice this one town to the safety of the rest; and not relenting at the cries and tears of the inhabitants, who implored his aid and protection, he gave orders to march, receiving such as followed him into the army; those who by weakness of age and sex were obliged to stay, and such as allured by the pleasantness of the place chose to remain behind, were destroyed by the enemy. The municepium of Verulam was involved in the like destruction; for the Britans passing by the forts and castles, pillaged the richest and weakest places, being intent upon the spoil, and regardless of the rest; about 70000 of the Romans and their allies were slain; for the Britans would give no quarter, nor cumber themselves with prisoners, or ransom or exchange any, according to the laws of war; but did kill, burn, hang, crucify by way of retaliation, and in such haste, as if they foresaw it would cruelly be returned upon them.

Suetonius having with him the fourteenth legion, and the vexillarii of the twentieth, together with some auxiliaries from the neighbouring places, almost to the number of 10000 fighting men resolved immediately to engage the Britans; for that purpose he chose a field of battle, a place accessible by one narrow passage only, and fenced in the rear by a wood; as sensible, that he should then have no enemy but in front, and the plain being open, there would be no danger of ambuscades.

ambuscades. He drew up the legion close in the middle, with the light-armed soldiers on both sides, and the horse on the two wings. The British forces were drawn up in smaller bodies and squadrons, to the amount of about 230,000 men; and had placed their wives on chariots round the field of battle, to be witnesses of the victory. Boadicea riding about in a chariot with her daughters, addressed herself to the several British nations that composed her army, to this effect; "That it was no new thing for the Britons to fight under the conduct of women; but now she went not as one royally descended, to fight for empire or riches, but as one of the common people, for lost liberty; to revenge the stripes she had received from them, and the dishonor they had done her daughters; that the Romans' lust was grown so exorbitant and unruly, that neither old nor young escaped its pollutions; however, the Gods had already begun to punish them according to their deserts; for one legion which durst hazard a battle, had been cut in pieces, and the rest skulk'd in their camp, or fled for their lives; so that they could not endure the noise and shouts of so many thousands, much less be able to stand their attacks. If the Britons would but consider the number of their own forces, and the motives of the war, they must either conquer or die. Such was her own resolution, though she was but a woman; as for the men, they might, if they pleased, live and be slaves."

When the engagement began, the Romans remained firm and unmoved, but after the enemy had spent their
darts,

darts, they sallied out in a wedge upon them, and the horse with their spears, broke whatever came in their way, and made resistance; the rest fled, but escaped with difficulty, being blocked up by their waggon: then a dreadful carnage began; the soldiers not sparing even the tender sex; nay, the very horses were slain, and increased the heap of carcases. It was computed, that no less than four score thousand of the Britans were slain, and the Romans about four hundred killed, and as many wounded. Boadicea finding her affairs ruined, ended her life by poison, and to complete the miseries of the distressed Britans, they were afflicted with a sore famine, which they had brought upon themselves, by neglecting to till the ground; this was the last vigorous effort they made for the recovery of their lost liberty.

By this complete victory, the chief part of South Britain came absolutely under the Romans dominion, and their chains were thereby firmly rivetted upon the inhabitants who were thence forward awed and kept in order by a large standing military force.

The Colony here being destroyed, another was undoubtedly planted in their room, and the town repaired, very soon after the fatal overthrow; for great numbers of Roman coins, even of Claudius himself, and of Vaspasian, Titus, Domitian, and their several successors, are daily found in and about this place; not in heaps, pots, or large quantities together, as if they had been designedly buried, but dispersed all about, as if accidentally lost at different times, bushels
have

- have been found in this town and suburbs, chiefly in the highest parts, about St. Mary's, the Burgh-fields, St. John's Garden, &c. a certain sign that the Roman city stood there.

From this time till the beginning of the reign of P. Lic Gallienus, that is from the year 211 to 260, we meet with nothing particularly relating to Britain. Gallienus being given up to idleness, luxury and riot, the empire was not only invaded on all sides by its barbarous neighbours, but also full of convulsions within its own bowels; for, thirty of the governors of the provinces assumed the imperial purple, in different parts, who are called by historians the thirty tyrants: Six of them, namely, Lollianus, Victorinus, Posthumus, the two Tetrici, and Marius, particularly are supposed to have been governors of this island; for their coins are daily found in great numbers about the town of Colchester.

- In the year 238, Coel II. general or governor of this district, under the Romans, (who did much repair and beautify this town, and gave it the name of Kayr-Coel) seized the government of those parts, now known by the names of Essex and Hertfordshire, that anno 242, his daughter Helena was born at Colchester; that anno 260, Constantius the Roman General in Spain, came and besieged Colchester, held by Coel, against the Romans; but after the siege had continued long, it was raised upon Constantius's betrothing Helena; and by her, anno 265, he had his son Constantine, born before the solemnization of the nuptials. Vari-

ous

ous are the opinion of authors, relative to the birth of Constantine, some assert he was twenty years old when his father came into Britain; others that he was at Naifus. Colchester is very unfortunate, in having two such potent adversaries as the most learned Dean Gale, and his learned son Roger Gale, Esq. the former of whom would place Camulodunum any where but here; and the latter is for depriving Colchester of the honor of having given birth to Constantine the Great. Prodigious quantities of this emperor's coins are daily found in and about this town. He divided Britain into four parts, viz. Britannia, Prima, bounded by the Thames, Severn, and the British Channel: Britannica, Secunda, being what is now called Wales: Flavia Cæsariensis, the midland parts of the isle, wherein lay Colonia Camulodunum, (Colchester) Maxima Cæsariensis, all the northern parts as far as Severus's wall.

It should be remembered, to Constantine's immortal honor, that he was the first Roman Emperor, who made public profession of the Christian Religion, and protected and encouraged it by wholesome laws. His father Constantius had secretly favored the Christians, and stopped the persecution against them; but Constantine declared himself their protector. The Christian Religion had been planted in this island, even in the apostolical times, and very probable by St. Paul, as hath been proved by Archbishop Usher, and Bishop Stillingfleet.

Thus Christianity flourished in this city and neighbourhood for many years under the auspicious reigns
of

of Constantius, and Constantine the Great, and through the favor and encouragement of the most pious Helena, who undoubtedly shewed a tender regard to this her native place, and built St. Helen's Chapel; but the barbarous and heathenish Saxons, who became early possessed of these parts, banished Christianity from hence for a while.

Constantine, after having arrived to the age of 66, died at Achyron near Nicomedia, May 22 A. D. 337 A. U. C. 1089, and was consecrated after his decease.

Helena was the beautifullest woman in the country, extremely well skilled in music, and adorned with all other acquired as well as natural accomplishments; her father having no other child, had caused her to be educated in such a manner as might best fit her to govern. Withal she was a woman of uncommon charity and piety, and had been converted to Christianity by her son, who committed the oversight of the several churches he was building to her care; wherein she acquitted herself in the most laudible manner. Having a very great desire to visit the place where our Saviour had suffered, she made a voyage to Jerusalem, though she was near fourscore. In her journey, she dispensed very considerable gifts and benefactions to many persons, towns, and societies. Finding that the heathens (offended at their superstitious veneration paid to the place of Jesus Christ's burial) had covered the tomb with a great quantity of earth, and erected over it a temple consecrated to Venus: she ordered that temple to be pulled down, and the earth to be removed,

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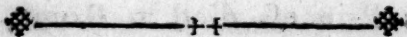
in order to build there a magnificent church. While the workmen were preparing the place for the foundation, they discovered, on the 3d, of May, 319, three crosses, whereon Jesus Christ and the two thieves had been crucified. Helena overjoyed at the finding of so great a treasure, sent part of the cross of Christ to her son, as a most valuable present, and left the rest at Jerusalem. This occurrence, or invention, is what hath raised the reputation of St. Helen so high, and rendered her so extremely venerable among the worshippers of the Cross; and for this very reason it is, that the Arms of Colchester, her native place, are a Cross between three Crowns, or Coronets. However this pious Princess died at Rome, in her son's arms, 18th August, a^o. 327.

About the beginning of Valentinian the IIIrd's reign, when the Roman affairs being somewhat restored by the victories of the famous Aetius over the Wisigoths and Burgundions, this general, out of pity for the wretched condition of the Britans, sent them one legion commanded by Gallio of Ravenna, or as some say, Maximian. This aid arriving unexpectedly in autumn, made great slaughter among the enemy, and drove the rest against the walls. But the Romans not being able to stay, plainly told the Britans, "That they could not any more undertake such laborious expeditions for their defence;" and advised them to inure themselves to arms, and to fight for their country, estates, wives, children and liberties; and boldly encounter their enemies, who could not overcome

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them, unless they gave themselves up to cowardice and laziness. They also exhort them to repair the walls of Severus with stone, and assist them in that work with all diligence, making it eight feet thick, and twelve high. Moreover they built towers on the southern coast, to hinder the enemies landing. Then leaving the inhabitants patterns how to make their weapons, and using proper encouragement to spirit up that lazy people, they took their last farewell of Britain. This was in the year of Christ 434, and 489 years from Julius Cæsar's landing in this island, or 391 from the more absolute conquest of it by Claudius.



State of the Town under the Saxons.

UPON the final departure of the Roman forces from this island, the condition of the inhabitants of that part now called England, became much worse than ever. The Picts, Scots, and other Barbarians, then without controul ranged over every part; they possessed themselves not only of all the north, but extended their ravages throughout the kingdom; so that by continual devastations and troubles, the miserable Britans were brought into such horrible distress, that they were starved, or forced to rob one another for present subsistence. This famine obliged even the hungry Picts and Scots to leave this country quiet for a while; and during that respite, through the natural goodness of the British soil, there ensued such

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an agreeable plenty of all things, as was never remembered in any age before ; in which quiet interval, the Britans formed themselves into several governments, and elected kings of their own ; but instead of making a thankful and proper use of their present happiness and prosperity, the inhabitants of South Britain grew vicious, and ran into all manner of luxury and extravagance ; too common a failing in human nature ; as a just punishment for which, a dreadful plague raged amongst them, and swept off such numbers, that the living scarce could be sufficient to bury the dead ; at the same time, their old invaders were preparing to renew their incursions ; whereupon they had recourse once more to the Romans for assistance. But Attila having entered the empire with a most formidable army, the Britans' most moving entreaties could not be regarded ; being thus left without refuge, they followed the same method as their ancestors were wont to do in times of common danger : that is, they elected a monarch ; but the discord that reigned among the principal members of the state, prevented the good effects of this choice ; for, several great men having fortified themselves in divers parts, acted like sovereigns. All the petty tyrants, jealous of one another, far from owning the monarch elect, sought only to destroy him, in order to be chosen in his room. Thus the Britans, whilst they endeavoured to unite themselves under one head, were plunged the deeper into anarchy and confusion.

We know not the names of those monarchs till Vortigern, count, or king of the Dunmonii, elected in the year 445. He was by no means qualified to restore the affairs of the Britans; for, as he attained to the supreme dignity by artifice and cabal, and by the murder of his predecessor Constans, he wholly bent his thoughts to maintain himself in the throne by the same wicked methods, regardless of the general welfare of his subjects. Living thus in equal dread of the enemies of the state, and of his own subjects, he devised an expedient to free himself, as he imagined, from the danger of the one, and the plots of the other. That was, to call in the Saxons; instead of permitting the Picts to come and possess again South Britain, to which they had a better title than any other nation, as their ancestors had been unjustly dispossessed of the same by the Romans.

However, as Vortigern could not put his design into practice without the consent of the Britans, he summons a general assembly; and, after describing the extreme misery of the nation, occasioned by the enemies' repeated devastations, he proposes the calling in the warlike Saxons to their assistance, by whose means they would soon be in a condition, not only to resist, but also to attack in their turn, their cruel and constant oppressors.

This proposal being approved of, it was agreed, after some debates, that the Saxons should have the isle of Thanet, in Kent, as a proper place to land their forces, and also convenient whenever they might want

to return into their country ; and that the Saxon soldiers should be allowed pay, as settled by agreement on both sides.

Thereupon embassadors are sent to Witigifil, General of the Saxons, who were then in possession of what is now called Holland. After hearing the cause of their coming, Witigifil assured them, that the Saxons would stand by the British nation in their pressing necessities ; accordingly a supply of 9000 men was granted for that service, on the conditions above-mentioned ; but the Saxons not thinking fit to send over at once so considerable a body of troops, to a country they had but an imperfect knowledge of ; therefore, under pretence that they were not all ready, they shipped off only a part of them, on board three kiules, or long boats, with their commanders Hengist and Horfa, sons of Witigifil. The nature of those vessels shews that the men could not be above 1000 in number. They arrived at Ebbsfleet in the isle of Thanet ; where Vortigern stood ready on the shore, and received them with all demonstrations of joy and respect imaginable, putting them in immediate possession of the island according to agreement. After they had refreshed themselves ; Vortigern led them against the Picts and Scots, that were advanced as far as the place now called Stanford, in Lincolnshire, and whom they utterly routed. They constantly defeated them afterwards in several encounters, so that the enemies being discouraged by the frequent defeats, abandoned their conquests by degrees, and retired into their own country,

try, dreading nothing so much as meeting with the Saxons.

Vortigern overjoyed to see his projects thus far happily succeed, in order the more effectually to engage Hengist and Horfa to support him in his power, presents them with some lands in Lincolnshire, near the place where they had defeated the Picts and Scots; and there they shortly after built Thongcaster, to secure the booty they should take from the enemy.

The Britans growing uneasy at this settlement of the Saxons, Hengist and Horfa sent for the remainder of the 9000 men, which came over in sixteen large vessels, A. D. 450, and among them Efcus and Rowena, eldest son and daughter of Hengist.

Hengist having now formed the project of settling in Britain, to which he was encouraged by the fruitfulness of the place, and the indolence and luxury of the inhabitants; makes use of his daughter Rowena to accomplish his ambitious designs. Having observed that love and pleasure were Vortigern's predominant passions, he invites him to a feast; and so manages, that this lascivious prince falls in love with Rowena, and desires her to marriage, though he had a wife living and several children, but he could not obtain her father's consent, without giving up Kent to him, which he peopled sometime after with Jutes; and of which he took upon him the name of king in 455.

Though

Though Hengist had a good body of troops here under his command, he did not think it sufficient to execute his vast projects: the Britans therefore freely venting their complaints against him and Vortigern, he thence took occasion to persuade that weak monarch, to let him send for more forces over; which having done, Octa, brother of Hengist comes over with forty ships, bringing with him his son Ebusa, and a great number of Saxon troops. These first ravaged the Orcades, then making a descent on the coasts of the Picts, obliged them to retire northwards; as soon as the Picts had thus deserted part of their country, the Saxons fixed themselves so strongly, that it was not possible to dispossess them. At first they settled on the north-side of the Tine towards the east, (now Northumberland) and afterwards advanced towards the south, drove by degrees, the Britans beyond the Humber; with these fresh supplies, Hengist found himself strong enough to be in no great fear of any attempt from the Britans; nay, he began to shew less regard for Vortigern; and, under colour of wanting frequent recruits to keep up the number of his forces, sent for continual supplies from Germany, without asking his leave. At length he throws away the mask, and demands larger allowance for his troops; declaring, "unless it was granted him, he would break the treaty, and waste the whole country." The Britans greatly surprised and provoked at these menaces, not only refused to comply with the Saxons' unreasonable demands, but also began to rouse themselves, and think of means to free their country from these insolent

lent guests, whom they now looked upon as their mortal enemies; for that purpose, justly deeming Vortigern unworthy of the supreme command, the chief of the Britans entered into a confederacy, and suddenly compelled him to make his son partner with him in the government, and to leave the administration of affairs to his care: so that on a sudden Vortimer was invested with the whole royal authority, leaving his father only the empty title of king without any power. Hengist finding he was like to have a fierce war upon his hands, hastily concluded a peace with the Piets; and then made a powerful diversion in the north by means of them, and the Saxons settled in those parts.

The course of the war between him and the Britans are not very distinctly related; only we find, that in the years 455, 456, 457, three battles were fought in Kent, between the Britans and the Saxons; the first near the river Darent, the second near Aylesford, in which Horfa and Catigern, Vortimer's second son were slain, and the last near Crayford, wherein Vortimer was entirely defeated, with the loss of more than 4000 men, and his best officers; so that not being able to keep the field, he was forced to shut himself in London. In the mean while the barbarous Saxons having no opposition, committed terrible outrages and unheard cruelties; of which these parts undoubtedly had an unhappy share. What might have saved the Britans, proved, through their unreasonable factions and animosities their farther ruin; for, Aldroen, king of Armorica

morica having sent 10,000 men to their assistance, under the command of Aurelius Ambrosius, second son of Constantine; Vortimer's party represented him as an usurper, who was come to seize the crown under colour of defending it. Both sides having at length wrought themselves up into the utmost fury, a civil war ensued, which lasted seven or eight years; and thus the miserable Britans, always a prey to their intestine divisions, instead of uniting against the common enemy, destroyed one another; at length, the wisest of both parties considering, that their dissension would be the cause of their common ruin, and was put to it, by parting the kingdom between the contending princes; Vortigern and Vortimer had the eastern, (and this town among the rest) and Ambrosius the western part; divided from one another by the Roman highway, called afterwards Watling-Street.

Hengist, who had for many years past entertained strong hopes of becoming master of Britain, finding himself obliged, after a twenty years war, to sit down contented with Kent, and some few other small districts, was the most uneasy party at the conclusion of the peace in 475 after the death of Vortimer, who died in that year; but Hengist being a man of unbounded ambition, and void of all principles of honor or justice, he resolved to extort by fraud and violence, what he could not obtain by fair and honorable means; for that purpose, putting on a peaceable and contented disposition, he invited Vortigern, (who was a man of pleasure to a splendid entertainment) Vortigern went thither, at-

tended with 300 of his principal subjects; and, unarmed, as suspecting no treachery; but towards an end of the feast, a guard being designedly raised by Hengist, at a certain signal given, the British Lords were all murdered by the Saxons, who had concealed daggers, or short swords for that purpose. Vortigern's life was spared, and he was only made prisoner; but he could not purchase his liberty without delivering up to the Saxons a great tract of land bordering upon Kent, which Hengist added to his small territories: this was afterwards divided into three provinces, and peopled with old Saxons.

From this time, Essex remained in the peaceable possession of the Saxons for some years; and in the year 527, Essex was erected into a distinct kingdom, one of the heptarchy. This kingdom comprehended not only the present county of Essex, but also Middlesex, and part of Hertfordshire; much the same district as what is now called the Diocese of London. The principal cities therein were Colchester, and London its capital, which afterwards became the metropolis of all England. The founder of this kingdom was Erchenwin, son of Offa; descended from Woden the common parent of the Saxon kings. Our ancient historians tell us nothing of this prince, except his name and pedigree, relating neither the number of his forces, the place of his landing, nor so much as the least encounter he had with the Britans. He died in 587.

His

His successors in the throne of Essex were, Sledda, Sæbyrht, Saxred, Siward, and Sigebriht, who reigned jointly; Sigebriht the Little; Sigebriht the Good; Swithelm; Sibbi, and Sighere; Sigehard, and Senfrid; Offa; Selred, and Swithred.

Sæbyrht, son and successor of Sledda, was the first christian king of the East Saxons; for those people, at the time of their first settling here, were Heathens; and cruelly persecuted all such as professed christianity. But A. D. 604, Mellitus being sent by Augustine the monk, to preach the gospel to the East Saxons, especially at London; Sæbyrht was converted by his preaching, and the example and influence of his uncle Æthelbyrht, king of Kent, who built the cathedral church of St. Paul's, London; and removed the see thither from St. Peter's in Cornhill; and then this town and country were made part of the see of London. Sæbyrht himself was noted for his piety and zeal for religion; and founded the church and abbey of Thorney, 611, which lying west of the same, was for that reason called Westminster.

Sigebriht the Good, restored christianity in his dominions, from whence it had been banished ever since the death of Sæbyrht; he was convinced of the absurdities of idolatry by his intimate friend Oswi, king of Northumberland, whom he used frequently to visit; and by his good instructions, being persuaded (with the consent of his people) to make open profession of the Christian Religion, was baptized by Finan, bishop of Lindisfarne. Upon his return to his dominions, he

desired Oswi to send him some teachers, to instruct his subjects in the faith of Christ. Accordingly Cedd and another priest, came and preached the gospel in these parts with good success. Cedd finding the number of Christians increasing, took a journey to Lindisfarne, and was consecrated bishop of the East Saxons; and then returning into these parts, erected churches in many places, and consecrated priests and deacons to assist him in the work of the ministry. He exercised it chiefly in the most unhealthy and ignorant parts of the country, about Ithancester, and Tilbury, and the present hundred of Dengy and Rochford.

After the death of Swithred, the last king of Essex, mentioned above, there were some few other kings, but the names are not recorded any where; all we know is, That after Kent had been conquered by Ec-bryht, this kingdom, among the rest, submitted to him A. D. 823, and so it was dissolved, the heptarchy being converted into a monarchy.

Under Ec-bryht's successors, this town and country now became part of the kingdom of England, remaining without any great alterations; especially after the several distributions of it were finally settled by Alfred the Great. But from the year 787 to 1013, it was miserably harrassed by the piracies and depredations of the Danes; and came successively under the power and government of four of their kings; namely, Swægn, Edmund Ironside, Cnut, and Hardicnuts. And this leads us to consider,

The State of the Town under the Danes.

THESE Danes were possessed not only of the present kingdom of Denmark, but also to some part of the coast of Holland, and of Norway; thus conveniently situated for navigation, they became very powerful at sea; and as trade was not then so much in fashion, they chiefly employed themselves in piracies, and ravaged the coast of Europe, particularly of England, France, and the Low Countries.

Their first descent into England, was upon the western coast in the year 787, but nothing happened in these parts till the year 866. when they came and wintered among the East Angles, (Suffolk and Norfolk) but did not enter Essex at that time, and coming back in 870, they slew Edmund, tributary king of the East Angles, from whom St. Edmund's Bury took its name; and ravaging all that country, made the monasteries of Bardney, Croyland, Peterburgh, and Ely; for those brutish plunderers were still Heathens. King Ethered fought nine pitched battles with them in 871, but still they kept their ground; and having brought East Anglia wholly into their own power, settled there in 879, under the government of Godrun; who, the year before, entered into a treaty with king Ælfred, and embraced Christianity; by this treaty the Danes engaged never to invade Wessex again; but they remained in possession of the whole country north of the Humber, and

and of the late kingdom of Mercia, as also of Essex, as bounded by the river Thames and Lea, and with it of this town in particular; that is, of above one part in three of England.

Alfred being sensible that a powerful fleet was the best security against future Danish invasions, took an opportunity of this peace to furnish himself with a considerable one; and putting out to sea, destroyed those rovers wherever he could find them; particularly some of his vessels that were sailing from the coast of Kent northward, surprised sixteen of the enemies' ships at the Sture's mouth near Harwich, took them all, and put the men to the sword; but in their return, they fell among a stronger fleet of Danes, set out by the East Angles, who had broke the peace with king Ælfred: and they not only took and destroyed those ships of his, but also many others about the Thames mouth. Notwithstanding this advantage, Ælfred re-took London from them, which he repaired and fortified, as he did also many other places and towns in the kingdom. Godrun died in 890, whereupon this town and country came again into Ælfred's possession, who made Bertheolf earl of the same.

The Danish pirates had left our coasts unmolested from the year 885 to 893; a band of them came with 250 ships to Romney, and entrenched themselves at Appledore; another band landing shortly after in the Thames mouth, built a fortification at Milton, and ravaged the adjoining country in a merciless manner.

Before

Before king Alfred marched against them, he endeavoured to secure the rest of their countrymen settled in Northumbria and East Anglia to his obedience, by exacting a new oath of fidelity from them, and taking hostages from the latter; but, notwithstanding such engagements, these faithless barbarians joined the new-come rovers upon every occasion, in their plunder and ravages.

Alfred in order to prevent the junction of the two bands that had landed in Kent, went and posted himself between them; A. D. 894; and though he thereby prevented a junction, he could not help their robbing in small parties. When they had got a good booty together, they attempted to carry it over the river Thames into Essex, to their ships that lay at anchor on that coast; but the king's forces overtook them at Farnham, and having dispersed them, recovered the booty. Thence the rovers fled over the Thames, and up the river Colne into the island of Breklesey, where the king's army besieged them as long as their provisions lasted; when they were spent they returned home, and the king went and supplied their place with the forces of the county; but the Danes remained there blocked up, because their king having been wounded in the late battle, was not fit to be removed. In the mean while, the treacherous Northumberian and East Anglain Danes, notwithstanding their engagements, finding their countrymen here too hard pressed, made a diversion in their favor with two fleets; one of forty sail, going round the north of Scotland, went and attacked

tacked a fort on the north side of Devonshire; the other of an hundred ships, going down the channel, laid siege to Exeter. Alfred informed of this, flew to the relief of that place with a large army; leaving some forces to block up the Danes here. Another party of English, reinforced by the Londoners, came and attacked a fort at South Bemfleet; where Hæsten and the other Danish band had posted themselves from Middleton and Appledore, it being stronger by nature than those places. The fort was soon taken with all the booty therein, and razed; and of the Danish ships stationed there, some were broken to pieces, others burnt, and the rest carried to Rochester, or in the river Colne, as above mentioned, assembled at South Shoebury, and built a castle there, to secure their booty and shipping, according to their usual method: and then made incursions quite through England, as far as the Severn; where they were either starved, or mostly destroyed by the king's forces. The remnant of them fled into this county, and retired to their castles or retrenchments, and to their shipping, and gathered together a large army before winter, chiefly out of the Northumbrian and East Angles; and leaving their wives, ships and money in East Anglia, they renewed their incursions, and penetrated as far as Chester; when they could subsist no longer they retired through Northumbria and East Anglia into this country, with so much precipitation, that the king's forces could not come up to them; and even these cowardly plunderers, for their further security, sheltered themselves in Mersea island, at the mouth of the river Colne, where
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not caring, or not being able to winter, they sailed up the Thames, and drew their ships up the river Lea, about twenty miles north of London, near Hertford, and there erected a castle or fortification for their defence; but king Alfred having made several cuts through Hackney marsh, and turned the current of the river from Oldford through Stratford, deprived them of all opportunity of getting them off again; whereupon the Danes quitted them, and retired to the Severn. The year following, 897, a plague that raged in England, drove them over into France, after they had made greater devastations than that dreadful distemper. To keep them off from the coasts for the future, king Alfred invented new gallies, by the help of which he destroyed as many as attempted to land afterwards; whereupon the Danes settled here, submitted to him, and acknowledged him sovereign of all England; but this great and renowned king enjoyed peace and quietness only a very short time; for he departed this life in 901, after a troublesome though glorious reign of twenty-nine years and an half.

His death brought fresh troubles, particularly to this town and country; for his son Edward, surnamed the Elder, having succeeded him, Æthelwald, eldest son of Ethelbriht, king Alfred's eldest brother, resolved to dispute the crown with him, and landed in Essex in 904, with an army of Danes and Normans, which soon made themselves masters of these parts; but Æthelwald being slain the year following, in an engagement near Bradenstoke in Wiltshire, peace was

restored to this kingdom; the Danes here settled, acknowledging Edward for their sovereign, as they had done his father, and the Normans returned home; about this time he became again master of the best part of Essex, which had been many years in subjection to the Danes.

In order to secure the possession of it, and to awe the wavering inhabitants, king Edward came, in the beginning of the year 913 to Maldon, and encamped there the whole summer, whilst a town was building and fortifying at Witham. In 920 he came again to Maldon, which he rebuilt and fortified, for we may suppose it had suffered much during the Danes' depredations. All this while Colchester, as being a stronger place, remained in the hands of the Danes; but in 921, a large army of English assembled together in autumn, as well from this county, as from Kent, Surry, and the neighbouring towns; and coming to Colchester, besieged this town till they took it; after which, they plundered it, and killed all the Danes that were therein, except a few that escaped over the walls. Immediately after, the Danes drew together a large army out of Suffolk and Norfolk, taking also some pirates to their assistance; and, in order to revenge their late defeat, went and laid siege to Maldon; but multitudes coming to their assistance, the Danes quitted the siege and fled; and being pursued, many hundreds of them were slain. In the beginning of November following, king Edward came to Colchester with

with an army of West Saxons, and repaired or rebuilt the wall where it was necessary.

After about seventy years rest, these parts began to be disturbed again by the Danes; for, in 991, they landed in Suffolk, and plundered Ipswich, the forces that were sent against them not being able to stop their ravages. In the end, to prevail upon them to desist, an unhappy expedient was devised by Siric Archbishop of Canterbury, which was attended with very pernicious consequences, as it served only to encourage them in their invasions; namely, the giving them a large sum of money, styled in process of time Danegeld.

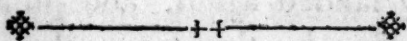
In 993 they landed again, and pillaged Ipswich, and thence passing by this town, they advanced to Maldon, where having overthrown Byrhtnoth, the king's ealdoman, they remained masters of the field of battle; so that Æthelred was forced to make a peace with them.

The year following, having attempted in vain to become masters of London, they ravaged the coasts of Essex and Kent, &c. and wintered at Southampton; for several years after, they ravaged many places with fire and sword, and committed many horrible barbarities.

As their countrymen were settled here, and joining them on all occasions, Æthelred ordered a general massacre of them, which was executed the 13th of November, 1002, with implacable fury and cruelty; but

this was severely revenged afterwards. Though a large fleet was fitted up by the English in 1008, they could not hinder another roving band of Danes from wintering the very next year in the Thames; which drew their subsistence from this town and parts adjacent; and by the end of the year 1011, they were become masters not only of this county, but of Middlesex, East Anglia, and twelve other counties. The decisive battle of Assandune, or Ashdon near Bartlow, in 1016, fixed their dominion here for a while.

From the year 1016, till the Conquest, we find nothing particular relating to this town or county.



The State of Colchester under the Norman Kings, and their Successors.

THAT great and unexpected revolution undoubtedly made some alteration in the Saxon laws and constitution, but not so general as some have imagined.

Both Normans and Saxons were originally of the same stock, and therefore may be supposed to have agreed in the essentials of government and policy: as for their religion it was the same; equally stained and corrupted with the errors of popery.

All who would acknowledge duke William's title, and submit to his government, became the objects of his favor and protection; for, as to the absolute conquest

quest which some have dreamt of, there was really no such thing: The contest lay between duke William, and king Harold and his party; the latter being overpowered, were, by the common fate of war, deprived of their places and estates; especially if they obstinately refused to yield to the superior force; and the like is to be said of the frequent revolts that happened in this reign: the generality that would submit and be quiet, had nothing taken from them, and were far from being treated like a conquered people.

However, what the state of Colchester was in the time of king William I. will appear by the following extract of that original survey, commonly called Doomsday-book, of which an exact copy, as far as relates to this town; by that it appears, that the Bishop of London had in Colchester fourteen houses and four acres, paying no rent except scot, unless it was to the bishop. In the same, Hugh held of the bishop two hides and one acre, for which he paid rent. Always two carucates in demesne, and one plough-land for the tenants, and two villans, and eleven borders, and one servant, six acres and an half of meadow. Now one mill, then worth 40s.

The next article in that book relating to Colchester, beginning with Greenstead, after which it is said, that the Burgeffes claimed custom and scot out of Lexden, lying near the land which Godric held.

Then follows a list of the King's Burgeffes who paid rent, (the same as fee-ferm rents; which is the reason
of

of the many fee-farms paid, even now, out of this town, to the king's receiver.) The number of those burgesſes was 276, who had 355 houſes, and 1296 acres of land, beſides 51 acres of meadow.

After that, we have an account of ſome great men who had poſſeſſions in this town. Hamo Dapifer had one houſe, and one court or hall, and one hide of land and fifteen burgesſes, holden by his predeceſſor Thurbern in Edward the Confeſſor's time; all which uſed then to pay rent, except the hall; and that the burgesſes ſtill paid ſo much a head; but nothing for their arable land, and the hide they held of Hamo. In the hide there was then one carucate, or plough-land, but at the time of the ſurvey none. Six acres of meadow; all which was worth in king Edward's time 4l.

Manſune two houſes and four acres. Goda one houſe. Eudo Dapifer five houſes, and forty acres of land, which the burgesſes held in king Edward's time; all this, with the fourth part of St. Peter's church pays 30s.

Hugh de Montfort one houſe, which his predeceſſor Godric held in king Edward's time, and then paid the king's rent, but now none.

Roger Piſtavienſis one houſe, which his predeceſſor Alſlet held in the time of king Edward, and paid the king's rent, but now doth not, nor hath done ſince Roger became poſſeſſed of it.

Earl Eustace twelve houses, besides one which Engelric hath seized. In king Edwards time they paid the king's rent, but now they do not, nor have done since Eustace hath enjoyed them.

William, the bishop's nephew two houses, which Turchil holds, and pays rent.

Otto the Goldsmith three houses, lying at Esceldeforde, which the countess Alueva held, and they paid the king's rent, but now do not. And this is part of the queen's land.

The Abbot of Westminster four houses, which earl Harold held at Ferigens, and they paid then rent, but now do not.

Goisfrid de Magnaville two houses, which Geny at Erlige held in king Edward's time, and they paid rent, but now do not.

Sueno one house, which Goda held at Elmeftade in king Edward's time, it then paid the king's rent, but now only head money.

William de Wateville one house of his own name, which Robert Wimarc held in king Edward's time, and it paid rent, but now do not.

Turftin Wiscard three houses of John Fitz Waleram, and half an hide of land, which two burgeses held in king Edward's time, and they paid the king's rent, but now none.

Ranulf Piperell five houses, which Ailmar at Terlinge held in the time of king Edward, and they paid rent, but now do not: one of them is without the walls.

Radulf Baignart one house, which Ailmar Melc at Tollenfum held in king Edward's time, and it then paid rent, but now does not.

The Abbess of Berchingis three houses, and she then paid rent, but not now.

Alberic de Ver two houses, and three acres of land, which Ulwin his predecessor held in king Edward's time, and they then paid rent.

The king's demesnes in Colchester; 102 acres of land, of which ten are meadow, wherein are ten borders, and besides that 240 acres between pasture and heath; and all this is let to ferm by the king.

In common among the burgeses fourscore acres of land, and eight perches round the wall, of all which, the burgeses have 60s. a year for the king's service, if need be, if not, they divide it in common.

And the custom is, for the king's burgeses to pay yearly, fifteen days after Easter, two marks of silver, and that belongs to the king's ferm: likewise sixpence a year out of each house; which may be employed either for the maintenance of the king's soldiers, or for an expedition by sea or land; and that to be paid, whether the king hath soldiers, or undertakes an expedition.

And

And for those fixpences, the whole city paid in king Edward's time, in lieu of all debts, 15l. 5s. 3d. a year; of which the moneyers paid 4l. in the time of king Edward; but now fourscore pounds, and a quart of honey, or 40s. 4d. besides 100s. fine to the Sheriff, and 10s. 8d. for the maintenance of prebendaries.

Moreover the Burgeffes of Colchester, and of Meldun, pay 20l. for the privilege of coining money, which was settled by Waleram; and they appeal to the king, that he hath remitted them 10l. and Walchelin, the bishop's tenant, demands of them 40l.

Then follows an account of St. Peter's church, of which an abstract is given under the head of that parish. This is the substance of that most ancient and valuable record, styled Doomsday-book, as far as it hath relation to this town.

Colchester now became a fixed and settled part of the English monarchy, we shall therefore set down, in order of time, what hath occurred in each king's reign relating more immediately to this place.

Under king William the IInd. we find nothing remarkable concerning it: only that it was put by him under the government of Eudo Dapifer, the munificent founder of St. John's abbey.

King Henry I. granted his letter patent to the tenants of his manor of Colchester. These letters were preserved among our records in queen Elizabeth's

reign, and undoubtedly were exceeding curious and valuable: but they are now lost.

In the reign of king Stephen, and in the ninth and seventeenth years of king Henry II, the crown was seized or possessed of this town; and it was let in ferm to the Sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire; but in the thirty-second and thirty-third of king Henry II. and even before, it was granted to the men or burgeses of Colchester for a fee-farm of 42l.

In the beginning of the same king Henry's reign, the burgeses were in possession of Kingswood-Heath; which, for reasons not particularly mentioned, the king took again into his own hands, in the fourteenth year of his reign. They had also then, and in the time of Henry I. the customs or duties of the water, and of the banks and sides of the same.

King Richard I. confirmed the ancient privileges of this town, and also enlarged them very much by his Charter: which is the most ancient we have now extant.

During the fierce contests between king John and his barons, in 1215, Saher de Quincy, earl of Winchester, having brought an army of foreigners into this kingdom, besieged Colchester Castle, but hearing that the barons at London were hastening to its relief, he withdrew to St. Edmund's-bury. However, he, or another party, soon made themselves masters of it; and plundered this town as they had done Ipswich and
other

other places; but the king retook it after a few days siege.

The year following, in the beginning of Henry the IIIrd's reign, Lewis, son of Philip II. king of France, having been invited over by the discontented barons, made himself master, not only of this castle and town, but also of all the eastern parts of England.

"In the reign of king Edward I. very large sums were imposed and assessed upon this nation; particularly in the first and eighth of his reign, a fifteenth was levied upon this town and its liberties, as appears by the rolls still preserved; and a tallage, in the fourth of his reign, to which this town paid 64l. 18s. 10d. In the twenty-fourth of the same reign, a seventh was also raised, within the precinct and liberty of the burgh of Colchester, on the goods and chattles every one had the Michaelmas before, by the oath of twelve of the burgeses: of the manner of which assessment, be pleased to take these few instances from the original roll: "Richard Tubbe had, the day aforesaid, one quart and an half of wheat, at half a mark per quarter; four quarters of barley, at 4s. a quarter; four quarters of oats, at 2s. a quarter; twenty pounds of wool, at 2s. per pound; a little piece of cloth, 4s; a bed, price 4s; two oxen, each half a mark; two steers, each 6s; two bullocks, each 3s; one cow, 5s; two horses, with a cart, price 1 mark; hay for the same, price 2s; a brass pot, price 3s.

Sum 61l. 16s. 8d.—The seventh of that 19s. 6d. qu.

Henry Godyar had, on the day aforesaid, five quarters of rye, at 5s. per quarter; four hogs, price 5s; one silver cup, price 5s; two silver spoons, each worth 10d. &c.

Robert Lord Fitzwalter had, the day aforesaid, at his manor in the vill of Lexden, eight quarters of rye, pr. each quarter 5s. &c.

But the most minute and remarkable taxation was as follows, viz. In the eighteenth of this same king, the parliament having granted his majesty a fifteenth of all the moveables in England, which grant was afterwards repeated, and extended to all the cities and burghs: Colchester was also assessed thereto, among the rest, on the twenty-ninth of that king, anno 1300. The original taxation for that year is still extant, and among the town records. The number of persons therein assessed in this town and the liberties, was 390; and the whole sum they were taxed at, amounted to 24l. 12s. 7d. as the manner of assessing these fifteenths is but little known, we shall lay a specimen of it before our readers from this curious roll.

“Roger the Dyer had, on Michaelmas-day last in his treasury, or cup-board, one silver buckle, price 18d.—one cup of mazer, pr. 18d.—In his chamber two gowns, pr. 20s.—two beds, pr. half a mark.—one napkin and one towel, pr. 2s.—In his house, one ewer with a bason, pr. 14d.—one andiron, pr. 8d.—In his kitchen, one brass pot, pr. 10d.—one brass skillet, pr. 6d.—one brass pipkin, pr. 8d.—one trivet, pr. 4d.

—In

—In his brewhouse, one quarter of oats, pr. 2s.—wood-ashes, pr. half a mark.—one great fat for dying, pr. 2s. 6d.—Item one cow, pr. 5s.—one calf, pr. 2s.—two pigs, pr. 2s. each 12d.—one sow, pr. 15d.—billet-wood and fagots for firing, pr. 1 mark.

Sum 17s. 5d.—The fifteenth of that.

William the Miller had, the day aforesaid, in ready money one mane of silver.—In his cupboard, a silver buckle, pr. 9d.—one ring, pr. 1s.—In his granery, one quarter of wheat, pr. 4s.—one quarter of barley, pr. 3s.—two quarters of oats malted, pr. 4s. each quarter 2s.—two hogs, pr. 10s. each 5s.—two pigs, pr. 3s. each 18d.—one pound of wool, pr. 3s. &c.

The Abbot of St. John's, Colchester, had, the day aforesaid at Greensted, eight quarters of rye, pr. 24s. at 3s. a quarter.—Item four stallions, pr. 24s. each 6s.—four oxen, pr. 40s. each 10s.—Twenty-four sheep, pr. 24s. 12d. each, &c.

Robert Lord Fitzwalter had, the day aforesaid, in his manor of Lexden, ten quarters of rye, pr. 30s. each quarter 3s.—twenty quarters of small oats, pr. 23s. 4d. at 20d. a quarter.—fix heifers, pr. 18s. at 3s. each, &c.

And they did not spare even the poorest persons, as appears by this, among many other like instances. "John Fitzelias, weaver, had, the day aforesaid, one old coat, pr. 2s.—one lamb, pr. 6d.

Sum assessed—The fifteenth of that, 2d."

In

In the sixth of king Edward II. a tallage was assessed upon every particular person, or master of a family, in this town and the liberties, according to the value of his chattles, or rents. The number of persons taxed, was 518, and the value of each person's chattles was set down in one sum, not in the same manner minutely, as in the subsidy taxations.

A twelfth was also levied upon this town and the liberties, in the thirteenth of this reign.

In 1347, when king Edward the IIIrd blocked up Calais by sea with a large fleet, Colchester furnished five ships, and 170 mariners; and after that glorious victory won by the Prince at Cressy, he sent some of his French prisoners to be kept here.

In 1348, a violent plague raged in this town, so that no less than 111 wills were entered on the town-rolls. There was a second plague again in the same reign, anno 1360.

Wat Tyler's insurrection, which happened in the following reign, had some abettors in this town; for, J. Ball, one of the chief incendiaries, calls himself some time St. Mary priest of York, and now of Colchester; and after the chief ringleaders had been put to death, numbers that would not submit to the king's terms, came to this town, and solicited the inhabitants to a new rebellion, but they were so wise as to remain quiet. In the tenth of the same reign, king Richard being apprehensive of an invasion from France, sent
a com-

a commiffion of array, to put this town and places adjacent in a pofture of defence.

What part this town took in the bloody difputes between the houfes of York and Lancafter, doth not plainly appear; but it may be inferred, that the inhabitants were chiefly in the intereft of the houfe of York; for king Henry VI. deprived them of their moft valuable privilege of the fifhery, and beftowed it on his favorite John de Vere, earl of Oxford; and king Edward IV. granted them the fullleft charter they ever had before or fince.

However, they had pardons from the feveral contending kings; which probably, were things of courfe at that time.

Auguft 5, 1445, king Henry VI. came to Colcheſter; but the reaſon of his coming is not expreffed.

The cuſtom of this town, in king Edward the IVth's time, was, not to permit any perſon to abide forty days in Colcheſter, without ſwearing fealty to the king.

In the reign of king Henry VIII. anno 1516, on the day before the feaſt of Corpus-Chriſti, queen Catherine of Arragon came to this town, with a grand retinue in her way to Walingham, where ſhe was going in pilgrimage to the famous image of the Virgin Mary there. The bailiffs, aldermen, and a great number of the burgeſſes went and met her at Lexden, and thence conducted her in ſtate to St. John's abbey, where ſhe abode that night and the day following.

They

They made her a present with a purse value forty pounds, not that they were obliged to it, but to welcome her to this town; and she made them a return. At her departure from thence, the bailiffs, aldermen, and burgessees attended her in the same state as before, to the further bounds of Mile-end parish.

Towards the latter end of this reign, the face of this town underwent a great alteration for the worse; for the stately church and abbey of St. John's, the priory of St. Botolph's, the church and hospital of the Crouched Friars, &c. which were a great ornament to this place, and a considerable support to the poor, were either demolished, or permitted to grow ruinous: twenty-five houses or tenements were taken down in Headward only.

In the reign of king Edward VI. the reformation was established in this town, as in the rest of the kingdom, and a rational service set up, in the room of a burthenfome load of superstition; but according to the common foible and perverseness of human nature, christians, instead of making a thankful use of the glorious liberty they were restored to, fell into violent contentions and quarrels about trifles; and, instead of uniting with meekness and decency, in the regular and established worship of God, embraced any thing, though full of the most palpable absurdities on God's moral character, and did run into the wildest freaks of enthusiasm.

In 1549, there was a dearth in and about this town, for the remedy of this, an order of council was sent down, the 20th of November, to the justices and other gentlemen of this county, to be communicated to the mayor, bailiffs, and other head officers of every market town; whereby they were impowered to search the barns, granaries and houses of every farmer and others having corn to sell; and to oblige them to bring, every market-day, such a quantity of grain to market, as they could conveniently spare.

Upon pious king Edward's decease, Colchester declared for queen Mary, in opposition to the learned and most deserved lady Jane Gray; for messengers were dispatched from hence, and provisions sent to queen Mary, at Farmlingham, of which the accounts are extant. This town was also put into a posture of defence against its opposers; and so well did she like the magistrates' zeal, that she came to this place July 26, 1553: the corporation made her a present of 20l. in gold, and of a cup of silver, with a cover, parcel gilt, weighing forty-one ounces; and spent a great deal of money in treating her.

The 7th of March following, an order of council came to Colchester, to put in readiness eighteen armed men, viz. ten archers and eight bill-men, well harnessed and weaponed, to be ready at an hour's warning to be embarked at Brightlingsey, for the service of her majesty beyond the seas, at Calais or elsewhere, as they should be appointed.

During

During this cruel reign, the fire of persecution raged in Colchester, as well as in other parts of the kingdom; for, March 29, John Laurence, and June 14, 1555, Nicholas Chamberlayne were burnt here. April 28, 1556, John Mace, apothecary, John Spence, weaver, Simon Joyce, sawyer, Richard Nicholas, weaver, and John Hammond, tanner, were burnt in this town. As the June following, Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Pepper, and Edmund Hunt, both of St. James's, Colchester, were burnt at Stratford-bow. August 2, 1557, William Bongeor, of St. Nicholas's, glazier; William Purcas, of Bocking; Thomas Benold, tallow-chandler; Agnis Silverfide, alias Smith; Helen Ewing, and Elizabeth Folks, were burnt in this place, without the town-wall in the morning; as were, in the afternoon of the same day, within the castle-yard, William Munt, Alice Munt, John Johnson, and Rose Allin; and John Thurston, died a prisoner in the castle for religion. About the same time, fourteen men and eight women were apprehended and fastened all in a string, driven up like a flock of sheep, to London, and imprisoned; but shortly after were released, upon their own easy submission. May 26, 1558, William Harris, Richard Day, and Christiana George, were burnt at Colchester, being the last that suffered this most unnatural punishment here. Eight others remained prisoners on account of religion, but were set at liberty the beginning of the year following, 1559.

For, these cruel fires were extinguished with that detested monster Mary I. and the reformed religion flourished

flourished again, upon the peaceable affection of queen Elizabeth, who carried the English name, Commerce, Discoveries, and Reputation to the highest pitch of grandeur, and brought this town into a more flourishing condition than it had been for some time before.

The first years of her reign do not furnish us with any occurrences particularly relating to this place.

But, in 1571, the Dutch and Flemings first came and settled in Colchester, and brought with them the most valuable trade of Baize and Say-making.

In December, 1578, there was a plague in this town and neighbourhood, which continued here till the August following, though useful orders were given to prevent the spreading of the infection.

The queen took a progress through part of this county and of Suffolk, in 1579, and was here the 1st and 2d of September. For her better reception, the following orders were made, "That the bailiffs and aldermen in the receipt of her majesty, shall ride upon comely geldings, with foot-cloths in damask or sattin cassoks or coats, or else jackets of the same, with sattin sleeves in their scarlet gowns, with caps and black velvet tippets. The council to attend upon the bailiffs and aldermen at the same time, upon comely geldings, with foot-cloths in grogram or silk cassock coats or jackets, with silk doublets, or sleeves at the least in their livery morray gowns, with caps, &c. That her majesty shall be gratified from the town with a cup of

silver double gilt, of the value of twenty marks or ten pounds. at the least, with forty angels in the same, and the officers of her majesty to be gratified as afore they have been, the recorder for the time being, to make the oration to her majesty."

Before the art of murdering was arrived at such a pitch as it hath since, the safety and defence of this kingdom, depended in a great measure upon the militia; therefore the mustering of them, was a considerable business, and duly and frequently performed. Queen Elizabeth had the hearts and hands of her subjects to rely on. Special commissions were granted to the two bailiffs, and a few other neighbouring gentlemen to take those musters, within the precincts of our liberties; and then the bailiffs sent warrants to the high constable of each ward, to warn and command in the queen's name, all able men, being not sick, impotent, or lame, from the age of sixteen years to sixty, dwelling within each parish, hamlet, or village; as also all manner of persons to bring at the said day, upon able mens' backs, all manner of armour, and weapons for footmen, and to warn the petty constables of every parish, to shew such armour, which the whole parish are bound to find.

The queen, upon the earnest entreaties of the states of the united provinces, having promised them assistance, in order to raise sufficient forces for that purpose, this county sent 150 soldiers in August 1585, towards which number this town furnished eight persons. The earl of Leicester, their general came to this

this town, was honorably received by the magistrates, and splendidly entertained by Sir Thomas Lucas.

Upon the news and apprehensions of the intended Spanish invasion in 1588, great preparations were made throughout the kingdom; among the rest Colchester furnished two ships and a pinnace; one of the ships was the foresight of London, the other was the Margaret and John, eighty tons burden, and furnished with two months provision, and in order to defray the charge of them, a tax was laid on all the inhabitants at 2s. in the pound on goods, and 3s. land.

The 11th of October following, her majesty granted a commission to Sir John Norris and Sir Francis Drake, to retaliate on the Spaniards; in pursuance of which, the deputy lieutenants of the county, sent a letter to the bailiffs of this town, signifying to them, that they had authority to levy certain numbers of soldiers and pioners, to be employed in some special commission committed to their charge; so that this town sent forth thirteen soldiers and four pioners, strong and serviceable persons, each soldier's allowance 13s. 4d. and every pioner 6s. 8d. and also as much conduct-money after the rate of 8d. by the day.

An army being raised in England, on purpose to assist king Henry IV. in 1591, eight able-bodied men were raised in each ward here, from such as might but be spared, or were newly come to the town: in March following, fourteen soldiers were pressed in this borough for the same service; and the July following,

fix

fix men were likewise raised, armed, and put in readiness here, to be embarked at Harwich, with 144 more out of this county, to serve in Normandy; the like number of fix soldiers, was again raised in this town, in September, 1598, with the sum of 21l. for their arms, apparel, and furniture, at 30l. 10s. each, to be transported from Harwich into France.

In 1595, this town, and the other parts of Essex, were ordered to furnish three ships for the service of her majesty at Cadiz, and on this occasion, this town paid 200l. to the vice-admiral of Essex, towards the furnishing of one ship.

In 1593, this town began to be charged with purveyance, or composition service; for the queen's household, which the corporation long refused to yield to, as thinking it inconsistent with their charter and privileges; but at length they were forced to submit thereto, towards the end of the year 1595, and for the assessing of it, an account was taken of the lands in every parish, and renewed in 1599, the sum paid was only 6l. a year.

Upon the discovery of the Spanish fleet on the coasts of France, in August 1599, an order was sent to the bailiffs of this town; strictly charging and commanding them, upon pain of death, presently, and without delay, on the receipt thereof, to give warning to all persons concerned, to repair with all possible speed, upon pain of death, to the place of rendezvous formerly appointed.

During

During the best part of queen Elizabeth's reign, this town had the WISDOM OF CHUSING, and the HONOR and HAPPINESS of having, for their Recorder the great SIR FRANCIS WALSINGHAM, for whom they expressed a due regard; and through his means, received from the court, all the favor and protection they could desire.

The unactive reign of king James I. affords but few materials.

The plague which raged at his accession, in the city of London, spread itself as far as this place, where it swept off great numbers in the course of four months. The only times it hath appeared since in this town, were in 1631, 1665, and 1666.

In 1608, there was a dearth of grain and other victual about this, as well as other parts of the kingdom, for the preventing and remedying of which, these uncommon measures were taken. The constables in each ward took an account of the number of persons in every family that had corn by them, what number of acres they had sown, what bargains they had made with any person for any kind of grain they had to sell, and what quantity of any manner of grain they had in their barns, granaries, &c. Also what number of kidders, malt-makers, bakers, common brewers, or tiplers dwelt in each parish; and according to that survey, every person was ordered to bring weekly to market, so many quarters, or bushels of corn, as they had not
directly

directly to the poor artificers or day labourers of the parish within which they dwelt.

In 1609, this town paid 46l. for the aid for making the king's eldest son, prince Henry a knight; and, in 1612, they paid 63l. 6s. 8d. for marrying the king's daughter, the princess Elizabeth, to prince Frederick, Elector Palatine, these sums were levied upon the bur-gage-lands, and is still extant, though not quite perfect.

About the beginning of the summer, in 1625, the Spaniards had twenty-eight sail at Dunkirk, which greatly alarmed all these parts, whereupon, orders were sent on the 10th of June to this town, to take present care that this corporation should be well furnished with all military provisions, fitting for the defence thereof; always well-manned, and the trained bands, and others fit to bear arms, exercised and in readiness: and great numbers were sent down to Harwich, which were furnished from hence with necessaries, (as beer at a penny a quart, &c.) Our magistrates likewise sent a light vessel upon the coast of Flanders, to watch the enemies' motions, which brought word that they were blocked up by forty sail of the Dutch.

About the beginning of the year 1627, forces were transported from these parts to the king of Denmark's assistance; but they went so much against their will, that the militia was sent from this town to restrain their mutinies.

The

The October following, 100 men were impressed within this county, to be sent to Plymouth, for the expedition against France; of which number ten able men were raised in this town, with 8*l.* in money, and likewise 150*l.* towards the expedition against the pirates of Algiers and Tunis.

In 1634, ship-money was first imposed upon this and other maritime towns, and the writ under the great seal, directed, that the chief magistrates of Ipswich, Orford, Aldburgh, Dunwich, Southold, Colchester, Maldon, and Harwich, should by a time therein limited, assess and levy upon their city, towns, &c. such sums of money as should be sufficient for the providing and setting out of a ship of 700 tons, furnished in all points, but this town was very backward in raising their proportion; the king was graciously pleased to offer, that since these two counties, Essex and Suffolk, had not such a ship, his majesty would furnish them with one, so as they caused the full sum of 6615*l.* to be forthwith levied and sent up.

The next year, 1635, this county, with the several corporate towns therein, were ordered to pay 8000*l.* towards the setting forth of a ship of 800 tons burden; the proportion of which charged upon Colchester was 400*l.* but this town refused to pay their share, alledging the demand thereof to be an intrusion upon their privileges, as appears by an order of council, May 18, 1636; and, so long after as 1639, they petitioned the privy council for ease thereof, on account of deadness

of trade in the town, and other reasons which rendered them unable to pay so large a sum.

Whether owing to this, or to the general disaffection which had spread itself almost throughout the southern part of this kingdom, especially among traders; it is certain that a spirit of sedition and disloyalty began early to break forth in this town; for, as soon as January 1641—2, a petition from thence was presented to the House of Commons, against bishops, and for liberty of conscience; desiring the Church Discipline might be established according to the word of God, and the town better fortified; in compliance with the latter part of which petition, the parliament granted 1500*l.* for making the town of Colchester, and the blockade at Mersea defensible. From petitioning, the inhabitants here proceeded to more flagrant overtacts of disloyalty and violence; for, August 22, 1642, they seized Sir John Lucas, who was preparing, with about ten or twelve horse, and some arms, to go to king Charles in the north, barbarously used his mother and lady, with his chaplin, Mr. Thomas Newcomen, rector of Holy Trinity here, robbed and plundered his house at St. John's, not sparing even the ashes and remains of his ancestors in the church of St. Giles adjoining, and carried him and Mr. Newcomen, prisoners up to London.

But excepting these outrages, this town had at first very little share in the dreadful calamities, the cruel plunderings and ravages, the murders and bloody battles which brought the rest of the kingdom almost to the brink of destruction.

For,

For, the major part of the chief inhabitants of this county of Essex, being in the parliament's interest, they entered, as early as December 1642 into an association with the counties of Suffolk, Norfolk, Hertford, Cambridge, and the isle of Ely, wherein they engaged to aid, succour, and assist one another in the mutual defence and preservation of themselves and the peace of the said counties from all rapines, plunderings, &c. For that purpose, large subscriptions were made, arms provided, the trained bands formed into companies and regiments, officers appointed, and all proper means of safety and defence used by the lord lieutenants and deputy lieutenants. This was called the Eastern Association. Some months before, the government party in this town, had very readily complied with the propositions and orders of the parliament, for the bringing in of money and plate, or subscribing to maintain horse and arms, for the preservation of the public peace.

Shortly after, the committee of the Lords and Commons, for the safety of the kingdom, made use of the "activitie and dispatch" of the leading men of this place, jointly with the inhabitants of the other towns in this county, and in Suffolk, to raise 2000 horse for dragooners; which they not only did, but also sent at several times, large supplies of men and money for the parliament's service, in opposition to the king. The chief supplies of men they furnished, were,

One company sent towards London, in the beginning of November, 1642, under the command of cap-

tain John Langley, when his majesty was then entered Middlesex, and threatened that city; and they were at the charge of their pay and maintenance for thirty days, which amounted to 285l. 10s.

One complete company they also impressed, in the beginning of the year 1643, for the earl of Manchester's use, and sent them to Cambridge, the rendezvous of the forces raised in the associated counties; which during the whole continuance of the war, received from hence perpetual reinforcements and supplies, not only of men, but also of all kinds of ammunition.

But they exerted themselves mostly in June, 1643, upon the earnest solicitations of the earl of Essex, and of his spur, the ambitious Cromwell: desiring those that had most interest in the cause, to approve themselves in it; men of religious lives and affections, fittest to bear arms for the truth of religion; men of estates, to defend those estates; therefore he requested them, to provide themselves with arms and necessaries, and six weeks pay; therefore a general subscription was made on the 26th of June, 1643, whereby great numbers were engaged to go in person; others to find men, horses, muskets, and pay; others subscribed from 1s. to 40s. even the women not being less generous than the men. Upon many other occasions, the inhabitants furnished recruits, and gave assistance of every kind to the parliamentarians; but the most considerable and substantial assistance they gave them, was in very large supplies of money, particularly from 1642, to 1648; the yearly amounts of them were thus,

In

In the year 1642, being part of } l. s. d.
 18048l. 9s. 9d. which was charged up- }
 on this county, as the proportion of } 872 0 0
 400,000l. imposed on the whole king- }
 dom, ——— ——— ———

In the year 1643,	—————	—————	—————	2833	1	8
————— 44,	—————	—————	—————	4405	16	6
————— 45,	—————	—————	—————	6279	19	4
————— 46,	—————	—————	—————	4283	10	7
————— 47,	—————	—————	—————	4829	13	8
————— 48 to Michaelmas	—————	—————	—————	6673	0	7½

Besides which, here was collected in April, 1643. to-
 wards the relief of the protestants in Ireland, 630l.
 In April, 1644, a voluntary loan to the brethren of
 Scotland: and December 26, the like for Sir William
 Brereton; September 16, in the same year, a collec-
 tion in each parish, from house to house, towards buy-
 ing shoes for the army under the earl of Essex. And
 May, 1645, a collection of voluntary contributions
 for horse and foot for the garrison of Gloucester, and
 for the counties of Gloucester, Hereford, Monmouth,
 Glamorgan, Brecknock, and Radnor.

From the committee's and sequestrator's books for
 this town, and part of the county, we learn, that con-
 siderable sums were raised by sequestrations of the
 estates of those termed delinquents; that is, such as
 would not come into the parliament's measures; the
 third part only being allowed to them: of which num-
 ber, in this town and its liberties, were, Sir Thomas
 Lucas of Lexden, Sir Henry Audley of Bere-church,
 Bestney

Brestney Barker of Monkwick, Esq. Laurence Forkinton, Esq. Mr. Stephen Nettles, rector of Lexden, &c. John lord Lucas is not mentioned at all; forasmuch as, in all probability, he was not admitted to compound, but his estate was seized entirely.

This poor and unhappy town in 1648, was brought under the tyranny of an army, was many ways oppressed and loaded with immense taxes, which from the surrender of the town* to Oliver Cromwell's being invested with the protectorate, in about five years amounted to above 16000l.

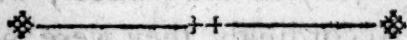
The dreadful plague which raged in London in the year 1665, began to appear in this town the 14th of August 1665, where it continued till the 7th of December, 1666, during which time there died of it 4731 persons, the highest number in any one week, was from the 15th to the 22nd of June, 1666, it then amounted to 195. During this great affliction and distress, several methods were used for the relief and assistance of the poor, and sums of money sent down here from divers quarters.

In the latter end of king Charles IInd's reign, June 23, 1684, this town was deprived of its Charter, in a most wicked and arbitrary manner, by the pretended surrender of some tools and sycophants, who under the specious names of "a testimony of their duty and loyalty, agreed to lay the charter of this corporation at his majesty's feet, and then humbly to beseech his majesty

* See MATTHEW CARTER'S Siege of Colchester, lately published.

majesty to confirm the ancient customs and prescriptions of this borough, and to regrant them such privileges, as his majesty in his princely wisdom should think meet." Accordingly they were new modelled by a new charter, on the 8th of November in the same year, and further new modelled afterwards by the charter of king James II. September 15, 1688, who placed and displaced the officers and members thereof by his mandates of pleasure. In 1693, king William and queen Mary, did absolutely restore and confirm the first charter, granted by king Charles II. August 3, 1663, with a few additions; restoring and confirming to the mayor and commonality and their successors, all manors, messuages, rents, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, commons, fairs, prescriptions, liberties, franchises, &c. granted and confirmed to the said mayor and commonality, or their predecessors, by any of the kings of England. Under this charter thus confirmed they acted, down to our times: but, through a very great and criminal neglect, no due care was taken, in elections to have a due majority according to charter; at length some incautious methods having given occasion to vexatious and oppressive prosecutions, in order to make this borough thoroughly dependent, great advantage was taken of the undue manner of elections thus long used; and informations, in the nature of quo-warranto's, having been thereupon brought against the mayor and the aldermen then living, they disclaimed, upon record in the King's-Bench, April 6, 1742 their rights of acting as aldermen. In 1763, a new charter was granted, in the third year
of

of the reign of his present majesty, but have not as yet been confirmed.



The Trade of this Town.

IN ancient times, such was the indolence or unskilfulness of the natives of this isle, that they employed themselves very little in manufactures; so that even our wool, the staple commodity of England, was exported to the opposite continent, and wrought by the Flemings, and other neighbouring nations.

However, there was some little work here even in the time of king Henry III. as appears by statute 9. Hen. III. c. 25. which enjoins, that there should be "one breadth of dyed cloth, ruffets and haberjects, that is to say, two yards within the lists." And also in the beginning of king Edward the IIIrd's reign, a statute of 2 Edw. III. c. 14. limitting the measure and affize of cloths of ray and of colour; which is a proof of some being then made in this kingdom.

So long as our English monarchs were possessed of large provinces in France, as Normandy and Guienne, the exportation of our wool thither, (and from thence unavoidably into the adjacent territories) was permitted, or connived at, at least; as was also the importation of their goods here, to the great prejudice of this nation; but when that wise and powerful prince, king Edward III. came to contend with Philip de Valois
for

for the crown of France, in order to deprive the French of that inexhaustible source of strength and riches; our wool and the goods manufactured of the same, he caused it to be enacted, that it should be felony to carry any wool out of the realm; that none should wear any cloth but such as was made in England; that no merchant should bring, or cause to be brought, privily, or apertly, into England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland, any cloths made in any other places; and by another statute, he gave great encouragement to foreign cloth-workers to come and settle here. In 1353, for the better keeping our wool within the realm, the Statute of Staple was made; the ground of which, as the preamble sets forth, was, "for the damage which had notoriously come as well to the king and to the great men, as to the people of the realm of England, and of the lands of Wales and Ireland, because that the staple of wool, leather, and wool-felts of the said realm and land had been holden out of them; and also for the great profits which should come to them, if the staple were holden within the same and not elsewhere. It was enacted, that the staple of wool, leather, wool-felts, and lead, growing or coming forth within the said realm and lands should be perpetually holden,—for England, at Newcastle upon Tyne, York, Lincoln, Norwich, Westminster, Canterbury, Chichester, Winchester, Exeter and Bristol;—for Wales, at Kaermerdyn;—and for Ireland, at Dublin, Waterford, Cork, and Drogheda."

From

From this period, therefore, may be dated the rise and beginning of the woollen manufactures in this kingdom; which have been encouraged and regulated since by several statutes, from the 25th of Edward III. to the 28th of his present majesty, king George III. as appears by the statute books.

This town had an early share in those manufactures, for we find wool-mongers, card-makers, combers, clothiers, weavers, fullers, dyers, in the reigns of king Edward III. and Richard II. mentioned in the Oath-book and Court-rolls; all plain proofs of the clothing-trade here; which extended itself into the neighbouring towns and villages, as Coggeshall, Dedham, Langham and East Bergholt.

When the Dutch, and with them the trade of baize and say-making were first introduced into this town, appears upon record by letters to the privy council, August 1, 1570, together with their answer to the bailiffs and aldermen, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, who greatly protected and encouraged that trade, against the natural jealousy of the rude and meaner inhabitants of these parts, which were often molested.

King James I. extended also his care and protection to these useful members of society, who brought in an universal industry, and by whose residence here, not only the inhabitants, but also, "the whole state of the town in general, received great benefits and advantages, by their being the occasion to maintain great numbers of people at work; yet such was the unthankfulness

fulness of some of our English weavers, that they not only carried complaints against them to the privy council, but also indicted them at the quarter sessions here, for assembling themselves in a company in their hall, without the king's subjects, and there making orders and setting fines upon his majesty's subjects, contrary to the statute of 21 Henry VIII. and also for using partiality and unjust dealing in their searches and orders concerning the new draperies;" so that the privy council were forced to interpose, by letters to the bailiffs in the town, wherein they enjoined, that the said indictments and presentments should be no further proceeded in; nor the said strangers from henceforth in any such sort molested.

Moreover, for the greater ease and security, king James I. granted them his letters patent, October 17, 1612, wherein he says, "that all strangers of the Dutch congregation, should and might from henceforth peaceably and freely use their trade of baize and say-making, and other foreign draperies, and also enjoy all such privileges, liberties and immunities, and should be permitted to use their assemblies and congregations, in as free, large, and ample a manner as had been heretofore practised, tollerated, or allowed unto them in the time of queen Elizabeth, or at any other time since." After that, though there were often small differences between them and the natives, yet they carried on their trade with sufficient quietness, and great success and advantage both to themselves and the town, and many got considerable fortunes.

From the year 1617, to 1716, they paid into the chamber of this town, 30l. 50l. and even as high as 90l. per ann. for the baize and say-hall, with the seal, and 60l. as a foreign fine.

Among other wise regulations, they had this standing rule, that all baize should be searched and surveyed at the Dutch Baize-hall, by sworn searchers, maintained by their company; and according to the content and goodness of the said baize, they were sealed, whereby the buyer or merchant might know the length and goodness of every baize; and by the laudible diligence of the bailiffs and officers, the baize trade kept its reputation for many years, but of late years greatly extended to Lincolnshire, &c.

An act of the 12th of Charles II. for the regulating of the trade of baize-making, in the Dutch Baize-hall in Colchester, prevented in a great measure all fraudulent dealings therein, and it maintained its credit several years after; so that we are told, it brought a return here of 30 000l. weekly, but it is more certain that 1000 or 1200 baizes at least were made here weekly, even within the memory of man. This trade was first most sensibly hurt by our wars with Spain, especially by queen Anne's wars, more glorious than profitable to England; by which means, and other disagreeable concurrent causes, the Dutch congregation not being able to carry it on, dissolved themselves in 1728; but it is undeniable, that it was queen Anne's wars which gave it the fatal blow.

Market

Market Days, Fairs, &c.

KING Richard I. enjoined in his charter, that Colchester market should not be hindered by any other market, but that the markets and customs here should remain in the same state as when they were confirmed upon the oath of the burgessees of Colchester, before the justices itinerant of king Henry II. Formerly we had three market days in every week, viz. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and one on every second Tuesday; by whom the three first were granted is unknown, but king William III. granted the last in his charter; and a wool market was also held weekly on that day for many years.

Saturday is the most considerable, nay we may say, the only market for meat, fruit, fowls, and all manner of provisions; fish is almost daily brought to town from Harwich, Manningtree and Wivenhoe; as it is caught; formerly there seemed to have been a market every day.

July 31, 1529, it was ordered that the gardener's market should be holden and kept from the Red Lion Inn to St. Nicholas's Church; renewed March 9, 1620; but has for many years been kept from the Red Lion to Pelham's Lane, as most suitably connected with the fish and flesh markets. June 18, 1660, the fish market was ordered, after the 14th of July following, to be kept in Wier Street; but in July 1697, a convenient

convenient structure was ordered to be erected for a fish market, by the side of the butcher's shambles, where it has been kept ever since.

Before the shops were daily kept open, and so well furnished as they are now, most things were bought at fairs; in king Henry the IInd's time, some of the children's clothes were bought at Winchester fair, and this is what has rendered fairs so considerable, and so much desired as a very valuable grant or favor.

Formerly there were five fairs in this town, viz. one in April, two in July, one in August, and one in October. That in April held near St. Anne's, in the parish of St. James, for the buying and selling of all and singular live cattle, goods, wares, and merchandizes, but have been withheld for many years; it was granted by king William III. December 15, 1699, and to continue four days; it was vulgarly called the Taylor's Fair.

The fair in July 5, or Midsummer fair, anciently lasted four days, but now only two; it is held on St. John's Green, and the Lord of Monkwick presumes to take the profits of the same.

The next fair is on the 23^d of July, and lasts two days; it is held in the same place near St. Anne's, as the other just now mentioned, and is called the New Fair.

The other is on the 2^d. of August, granted by king Richard I. in the year 1189, to the Lepers of St. Mary Magdalen;

Magdalen, but has not been held in any note for a great number of years, and is now partly extinct.

The fair in October, or St. Dennis's fair, was granted by king Edward II. in his charter, February 4, 1318; he directed it should last, the eve of St. Dennis's day, and the six following days; and so it continued till 1635, when some of the burgessees having insinuated to king Charles I. that it would be an advantage to this town, to have that fair reduced to four days, he ordered in his second charter, dated July 9, that year that it should continue four days only; and agreeable to the present charter, it is to be held for three market days, and no longer; Wednesdays and Saturdays being the declared market days; but they every year exceed that time. It is kept the north side of the High Street, from the Exchange to the Market-cross, where booths are built for that purpose; but by an order made about it in 1563, it appears that it began then "beneathe Berye-field gate, and extended upwards to the further corner of the Corn-markett, by the towne well, or king Coel's pump, and so downeward to the other side towards the pyllorye, on both sides of the waye:" the first day is a fair for live cattle, kept in Berye-field, the others for all sorts of merchandize; the mayor, aldermen, &c. proclaim the same on the 20th of October; formerly a sermon was preached before them on the occasion.

By statute 26 Henry VIII. c. 14. Colchester was one of those towns which were to be taken and accepted for fees of bishops suffragans to be made in this realm;

realm; there never was but two consecrated for this place; namely, William Moore, rector of West Tilbury, and Bradwell juxta mare, and vicar of Walden; consecrated October 20, 1536, and died in 1540; John Sterne, B. D. vicar of Witham, consecrated November 12, 1592, died February 1607.

As to Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, this town is under the government of the bishop of London; and gives denomination to one of the five archdeacons of that see, whose archdeaconry comprehends the deaneries of Colchester, Lexden, Tendring, Witham, Samford, and Newport. The present archdeacon is the Rev. Dr. Hamilton.

It hath also given the title of Viscount to the noble families of Darcy of Chiche, and Savage; for, July 5, 1621, Thomas Baron Darcy was created Viscount Colchester, with a grant of 8l. out of the fee-farm of this town, to him and the heirs male of his body, and, for default of such issues with remainder to Sir Thomas Savage of Rock-savage, bart. who had married to his eldest daughter Elizabeth; and to their joint heirs. The said Thomas Lord Darcy was also advanced to the title of Earl Rivers, November 4. 1626, and dying February 21, 1639, was succeeded in the titles, &c. by his grandson John Savage, who was succeeded by his two sons Thomas and Richard, one after the other. Thomas died in September 1694, and Richard August 1712, both without issue male; so that the title of Viscount Colchester is extinct.

Privileges

Privileges and Charters.

COLCHESTER always having been a considerable town, that it ever merited and obtained the regard and favor of our sovereigns, and that they granted it from the first several large privileges and immunities. In the reigns of king Henry I. and II. they had the customs of the water and of the banks, or wharfs on each side; and the markets and customs were confirmed in the reign of Henry II. by the justices itinerant, upon the oath of the burgeses of the town; but the first of our kings who settled and confirmed their liberties and privileges by charter, was king Richard I. for in his charter, dated December 6, 1189, he granted and confirmed to his burgeses of Colchester, liberty to chuse bailiffs from among themselves whom they would; and a justice to hold pleas for the crown, and to plead them within their own borough; ordaining that they should have no justice but of their own chusing; and not plead any matter out of the walls of their borough; be free from scot and lot, danegeld, and fine for murder; and whenever they were summoned before the justices itinerant, they might be acquitted by four creditable men of the borough; and none of them should clear themselves by duel; if any one of them was impleaded in a plea of the crown, upon making oath that he had been indicted in the borough, he should be discharged. That none of the royal family, or any other, should be lodged, by force, or by the marshal's appointment, within

within the walls; that they should be exempt all over England, and the seaports, from toll, lastage, passage, portage, and all other customs and duties at all times and in all places; and if any person took toll or custom from them, that city, borough, or town, in which the toll or custom had been taken, as much as the burgeses had given for toll, or according to the damage he had suffered; they who owed them any thing should well and truly pay it, or legally prove at Colchester that they ought not to pay it; and upon refusal, should take a distress according to due course of law. No forester should have power to molest any man within the liberty, but all the burgeses might hunt within the liberty of Colchester, the fox, the hare, and the polecat; and they should have the fishery from the North Bridge as far as Westnesse, and from North Bridge to Westnesse, the said burgeses should have the custom of the water and banks on both sides, to enable them to pay their fee-farm, as they enjoined them in the time of king Richard's father and grandfather. These great privileges have been wholly and entirely confirmed by the charters of subsequent kings; and most of them made considerable additions; for king Henry III. granted, that they and their heirs for ever should have the return of all writs, in matters concerning the liberty of this town.

King Edward II. allowed them the full and free enjoyment of such liberties contained in their charter, as they or their predecessors had not hitherto enjoyed, without any molestation from himself or his heirs, his
justices.

justices, escheators, sheriffs, or any other of his officers.

King Edward III. Richard II. and Henry IV. were content with establishing our privileges without enlarging them.

King Henry V. and VI. without annulling any clause of the foregoing charters, confirmed those parts of the charters which did most especially relate to the election of bailiffs, and a justicery; the holden of pleas within the borough; and assizes and inquests by burghesses, and not by foreigners; and the hearing and determining all pleas both real and personal, belonging to the burgh and the liberties within the Moot-hall. That the liberty, suburbs, and precincts of the town of Colchester should extend throughout the said town of Colchester, and the several hamlets of Lexden, Mile-end, Greensted and Donyland; and from North Bridge as far as Westness, the burghesses and their predecessors having peaceably and without interruption, enjoyed the said hamlets, &c. and that the bailiffs of the town, for the time being, might hold all kinds of pleas, and all manner of actions real, personal, and mixt; as well concerning lands, tenements, and other possessions whatever; as touching debts, and all manner of contracts for above forty shillings, or under; and all manner of trespasses by force of arms, or otherwise committed, and all manner of offences and injuries not amounting to felony, done within the said town; moreover, he granted to them, their heirs and

• 2

successors;

successors, that yearly, at the time of election of bailiffs, according to ancient custom, to chuse four of the MOST WORTHY AND DISCREET PERSONS, to be jointly with the bailiffs for the time being, JUSTICES OF THE PEACE for one whole year; and that the said four men, and the bailiffs, five, four, three, and two of them, should be justices of the peace in that town, to have full correction, punishment, power, and authority, of determining all felonies, trespasses, causes, quarrels, and misdeeds whatever done within the said town; to take care of weights and measures, hunters, servants, labourers, and artificers. And that no justice of peace in the county of Essex, or elsewhere, should have power to correct, enquire, hear and determine any thing done within the liberties of the town; and that the goods and chattles of all felons, fugitives and outlaws, and of all persons condemned, and in what manner soever convicted, as the same goods should happen to be found in the town aforesaid; and likewise the goods and chattles of all persons that lay violent hands on themselves; and if any person should commit trespass for which he ought to lose life or limb; or flies, and would not abide judgment, or was guilty of any other offence for which he ought to lose his chattles; wheresoever justice ought to pass upon him, all his goods and chattles thereby lost and forfeited to the king, should belong to the aforesaid bailiffs and burgesses, and their successors for ever; who might seize and take possession of the said chattles, towards the support and the payment of the large fee-farm which they pay to the crown. He granted, moreover, that

it should not be lawful for the steward and marshals or clerk of the king's household, or his admiral, to enter or come into the town of Colchester, or precincts of the same; and that the bailiffs should have full power and authority, to enquire of all matters concerning the office of clerk of the market that should be within the said town.

King Edward IV. granted this town a very full and ample charter, wherein, after confirming the charters of his predecessors, he says, that the bailiffs and burgeses of the borough of Colchester, were in fear, that in time to come, they might be disturbed in the possession of the liberty and precincts within the hamlets, water and banks, and the liberties, franchises, and immunities aforesaid, or some of them; on account of the ambiguity and doubtful meaning of some words and general expressions used in the charters aforesaid, or for want of a due explanation thereof, because it was not expressly declared how far the liberty of this borough extended; therefore his majesty considering that this borough was one of the most ancient in England; that it was seated near the seaports, to oppose the attempts of his enemies that were disposed to invade his kingdom; he ratified and confirmed the Charter of Grants, and the state, title and possession, had in the liberty of, and in the hamlets, water, river and banks aforesaid, in the amplest manner possible; allowing them the full enjoyment of those franchises, liberties, &c. Moreover, he made them the following gracious concessions; that the bailiffs and burgeses,
and

and their successors, consisting of two bailiffs and one commonality, should for ever be one perpetual body and commonality in name and in deed; and incorporated them by the name of bailiffs and commonality of the borough of Colchester, declaring them capable of purchasing lands, tenements, &c. to hold to them and their successors for ever; to plead, and be impleaded in any of the king's courts, and to have and enjoy all and singular the liberties and franchises comprised in the foregoing charters: he also authorised them to use a common seal for the affairs of their borough; and in order to remove all manner of difficulty concerning the four hamlets, and the fishery, he granted to them the said four hamlets of Lexden, Mile-end, Grinsted and Donyland, and the water and river from the North Bridge as far as Westness, together with the banks on each side of the river, and all the creeks adjoining and belonging to the said water, as parcel of the liberty of this borough, so that no person might, without the leave of the bailiffs, &c. place, erect, or make wharfs, cranes, &c. on the banks thereof; or wears, kidells, or engines for catching of fish; or fish in the same water; or presume to sell or buy any merchandizes, in vessels coming up the said water, (provisions only for peoples' households excepted) but at the New Hythe, upon pain of forfeiting both goods and vessels. Moreover, he granted to the bailiffs to have the return of all the king's writs and precepts, as well of assize of most d^r ancestor, certificate of darrein presentment, attaints, and all others concerning the king, or any other person whatever; and the execution

cution of the same, at the king's, or any other person's
 suit, to be prosecuted within the said borough; so as
 that no sheriff or coroner, except the king's coroners
 to be chosen by the bailiffs, &c. nor any bailiff or other
 officer whatsoever, should enter the burgh, liberty and
 precinct, to execute any writ, precept, or mandate,
 though they concern the king's person, or any other;
 but the execution shall be in the bailiffs, coroners, or
 other officers for the time being: that the bailiffs should
 have for ever the cognizance of all pleas, real, per-
 sonal, and mixt, and other whatsoever concerning
 lands and tenements within the same; and of all other
 pleas, whether of Chancery, Exchequer, Common
 Bench, Justice of Assize, all which shall hold and de-
 termine in their Moot-hall; and that should hold a
 court in the said hall every week, on Mondays and
 Thursdays, to hear and determine all personal pleas
 by plaint before the bailiffs; and the persons against
 whom such plaints shall be brought, to arrest, and their
 goods and chattles within the borough to attack, and
 commit their bodies to prison; and to hold and deter-
 mine all other pleas of lands and tenements, on Mon-
 days, from fortnight to fortnight; and pleas of pie-
 powdered court; and to pass judgments, and cause
 executions in the manner and from before accustomed.
 Moreover, that the bailiffs and aldermen for the time
 being, and the sixteen burgeses elected by them after
 the usual manner, together with sixteen other discreet
 and honest burgeses; four out of each ward, chosen
 by the bailiffs and aldermen, &c. should be the Com-
 mon Council of this town, who might make reasonable
 ordinances

ordinances and constitutions, and put them in execution, and likewise alter and revoke them whenever they think proper; also, that they might assess reasonable taxes and tallages, upon the goods, rents, trades and merchandizes, of all persons dwelling therein, according to each person's ability, and levy them by distress, by arrest and imprisonment, without any obstruction of the king, or any of his officers. To the bailiffs also was committed the assize of bread, wine and beer; the assay of weights and measures, in as full and ample a manner as the clerk of the market of the king's household might perform the same; as neither the said clerk of the market, nor the admiral of England, his deputy, or officers; nor the steward, or the marshal of the king's household, or their servants, might come into the burgh, liberty, or precinct aforesaid, by land or by water, to discharge or execute any thing belonging to their office. Further, he granted, that the bailiff of this borough for the time being, and some lawyer, and four burgessees to be chosen in the same manner as the bailiffs, should for ever hereafter be keepers of the peace, and authorised, to enforce the observance of several statutes for the quiet and good government of the same; and to chastise and punish all offenders according to the form therein prescribed: likewise to oblige all persons that threaten mischief to any one, to give sufficient security for their good behaviour, and to imprison them till they have given such security: moreover, that the said six, five, three and two of them, (whereof the lawyer to be always one) be justices, to enquire, upon the oath of honest
and

and legal men of the borough aforesaid, of felonies, trespasses, forestallers, regraters, and extortions whatsoever; so that all writs, precepts, and mandates be directed to, and executed by, the officers of the said borough, and not the sheriffs, &c. of the county; finally this charter concludes with very great privileges; that no person dwelling and residing within this borough, should be impannelled against his will, in any assizes, inquests, attainments, or recognizances whatsoever, out of the said borough; nor be appointed assessors or collectors without the same, or compelled to bear any office or employment against his will, and be no way liable to any fine or forfeiture for refusing to take upon him such offices.

King Henry VIII. in a grant of Kingeswood or Kingeswood-heath made these concessions, that none of the burgesses of the burgh of Colchester, should be sheriffs of any county in England; and that they should have to themselves two coroners as formerly; and that the bailiffs and commonality, and their successors, to have all the issues, fines, forfeitures, and other profits whatsoever, arising from, or belonging to, the office of coroner.

The second charter of king Charles I. dated July 9, 1635, was in a manner quite a new one: His majesty grants and declares, that Colchester shall for ever hereafter, be and remain a free borough of itself, through all its ancient bounds and limits; and incorporates the men and free burgesses, and bailiffs and commonality,

commonality, by the name of Mayor and Commonality of the borough of Colchester, in the county of Essex; setting their government in the following manner; that they should have a mayor and nine aldermen, sixteen assistants, sixteen common-council-men, four out of each ward, a high steward and recorder, both for life; and a common clerk, during the recorder's pleasure; the mayor to be annually chosen by the free burgesses, or the greater part of them, on the Monday next after the decollation of St. John the Baptist, (August 29) and to be sworn on Michaelmas day. In elections, the mayor to have a double or casting vote; he and the rest of the officers to appear in their proper gowns on Sundays, and other solemnities; to hold assemblies in the common hall, and make good, sound, honest, useful, necessary, and reasonable laws, constitutions, orders, &c. and put them in execution, levy fines, &c. The mayor, recorder, last year's mayor, and two other aldermen annually chosen to be justices of the peace, and to hold quarterly sessions of the peace; the mayor and recorder to hold weekly courts on Mondays and Thursdays, and the mayor and commonality to have cognizance of pleas of debts and affairs within the burgh belonging to the admiral's jurisdiction, and to hold a court every Thursday, to hear and determine those pleas; but the admiral of England, or his deputy, to have the liberty of coming to take care of his debts, and other concerns of the admiralty. He also orders, that no person should sell beer without licence, and that a preambulation should be taken yearly of the bounds and limits of the burgh; and he confirms the custom,

custom, &c. used time immemorial; that if any foreigner, buys or sells any goods or merchandizes, otherwise than by wholesale, those goods should be seized, appraised, and converted to the use of the whole commonality, unless the owner redeems them; and that no foreigner should use any mystery, occupation, or manual trade, nor buy nor sell (unless in fair time) any goods, &c. unless victuals by retail; and that the buyer or seller be a free burghers.

The first charter of king Charles II. dated August 3, 1663, is in all points the same as the last, except as to the number of officers, which are thus settled therein, twelve aldermen, including the mayor, eighteen assistants, and eighteen common-council-men.

Upon the unlawful surrender in 1684, a second charter was granted by the said king, with these alterations, a mayor and eleven aldermen, fifteen assistants and fifteen common-council-men were appointed, and the mayor to be chosen only by the assistants and common-council; eighteen or more of them, impowered to make bye laws, &c. All elections to be made of persons, which within six months at least before were sworn in, to take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy, and subscribe the declaration in the act for regulating corporations; every election of mayor, &c. made contrary, to be declared void; but his majesty reserved to himself, his heirs, and successors, a power to remove any officers, and the mayor, aldermen, &c. to proceed to a new election.

King James II. in his charter, dated September 15, 1688, not only omits all the clauses, which obliges the officers here elected to receive the sacrament, and to take the oaths of supremacy, &c. but he expressly dispensed with their taking the said oaths, and receiving the sacrament; he abridged the number of officers to ten aldermen, including the mayor, ten assistants, and ten common-council-men; empowering fifteen of them or more, to assemble and make bye laws; and reserved to himself, &c. a power to remove any of the officers, or to put in, by mandate, any person in the room of those so removed, or dead.

At the revolution, this burgh was restored to its ancient liberties; and upon the attorney general's report of the undue and ineffectual measures taken about the pretended surrender in 1684, king William and queen Mary, by their letters patents in 1693, recited word for word the first charter of king Charles II. did, absolutely and amply renew and confirm it with the addition of the fair and Tuesday market above-mentioned; and under this charter, thus confirmed, the corporation acted for many years.

In 1763, in the third year of his present majesty's reign, George III. (whom God long preserve) a new charter was granted; and as it is in substance the same, as that last mentioned, we think it needless here to insert it; we shall therefore proceed to relate other particulars.

Besides

Besides the privileges, obtained by grants and charters, Colchester enjoys some by prescription and custom, viz.

1. To be a hundred or liberty of itself; accordingly a hundred-court used to be very anciently held here, as also a lawe-hundred-court, which in time gave place to the quarterly sessions of the peace.

2. A femme covert may convey her estate, within this town, by deed; being first solely and secretly examined by the mayor, and declaring her consent, without passing a fine; but both the deed and her examination must be enrolled in the mayor's court.

3. By ancient usage, before any direction, or even the least mention in any of our charters, about aldermen, common-council, &c. in the 46th of Edw. III. and in the 6th of Hen. IV. &c. the free burgeses were wont to elect seven or eight aldermen, two chamberlains, one town clerk, four clavers, two coroners, and sixteen of the council of the town.

4. A free burges could not only bequeath by will what he had purchased, but also this town had anciently the probate and enrolling of wills; and in order to prevent frauds, proclamation was made in full court that if any person had objections to make against the proving of that will, he should come and make them known at the next court; if nobody then appeared, and objected against it, the will was proved: They began to cease being proved here about the years 1550 or 1560.

As early as the reigns of Henry I. and II, we find, that the burgesſes had the cuſtoms of the water and of the banks on both ſides ; and Richard I. was alſo graciouſly pleaſed to grant them the fiſhery, from the North Bridge as far as Weſtneſſe.

This fiſhery doth not include only the plain courſe of the river Colne, but all the fleets and creeks it runs into, namely, Pyefleet, Braſlett, or Bracefleet, Barnfleet, the North and South Gedens, the Paddock, Skiphope, &c. that is the whole Colne water, from the North Bridge to Wallet-bar, below Merſea Blockhouſe ; and from an infinite number of records, the commonality of the town, are duly and legally intitled to the ſole, ſeveral, or ſeparate fiſhery, and of fiſhing in the ſaid river, and creeks thereunto belonging, excluſive of all other perſons whatſoever without their leave and authority ; and have ever had the full power of diſpoſing as they think proper, all oyſters and other fiſh ; and for their preſervation, courts of conſervancy are held every year, between the flowing and ebbing of the ſea to full tide ; wherein all offences committed between North Bridge and Eaſt Merſea ſtone, have been preſented by a jury, and the offender amerced.

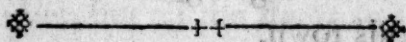
There are ſome pariſhes adjoining whoſe inhabitants are admitted upon licence, from the mayor and water bailiffs, to fiſh and dredge oyſters in this water. Eaſt Merſea, St. Oſyth, Brightlingſea, Arlesford, Wivenhoe, Fingringhoe, Langenhoe, and Eaſt Donyland ; and no licence granted to any one who has not a legal ſettlement.

settlement, and also free of the trade; and the said Colne is shut, and all persons forbid to dredge, &c. before the 22d. of July in every year, at which time to take single or double licences, which is called setting the Colne, and none are permitted to fish without them; and there are instances upon record, of money being paid for anchorage against Mersea stone, within the liberty of this town.

This account of the fishery, leads us to say that our oysters have been held in great estimation; nay, Sir Aston Cokain poetically fancies, that they tempted Julius Cæsar to invade this island; however, they have been thought a present fit for persons of the highest quality, but the unfair tricks plaid by the London fishmongers, who endeavour to engross them, and would permit none, if they could, to be vented in that city, but what pass through their hands, and who often mix them with others taken on the western coast: the sort we most esteem is the Pyefleet, a small thick oyster, with a transparent shell, and as full of a tender and delicious meat as it can well hold.

To the Colchester oysters, let us subjoin another thing which Colchester is famous for, viz. the excellent sweetmeats made of Eringo Roots; they were first candied in this town about the beginning of the last century, by Robert Buxton, apothecary; his apprentice, Samuel Great continued this business, and it has ever since been carried on by the latter's posterity with universal liking and approbation.

Out of due regard for honest and industrious merit, we must also take notice of the admirable Auriculas raised by John Stow of Lexden, which the connoisseurs allow to be the finest in the British dominions, if not in all Europe, some of them having no less than 133 blossoms upon one stem.



Half-year Land.

THERE is another notable privilege belonging to the free burgesses of Colchester, that is, the benefit of commoning in certain lands round the walls of the town, from August the 1st, till the 2d of February, about 500 acres; it was granted to them in the reign of Henry II. formerly they had fourscore acres, and eight perches round the wall in common, and that the king's demesnes in Colchester were 102 acres of land, of which 10 were meadow, and 240 acres besides, between pasture and heath, all which was let to farm by the king.

These royal demesnes continued in the crown till about the 14th of king Henry II. when he granted them in fee-farm, with a right of commonage to the free burgesses of this town, but were again in the crown in the 1st. of king Richard I.

The right of commoning doth not intend to lands that are sown with grain or corn, which is a plain demonstration that the owners may plough and sow them.

None

None but free burgesſes have a right to common. That they are not to overlay or ſurcharge them; that is, every one is allowed to put in a certain number of cattle, which is three, or ten ſheep, or forfeit 3s. 4d. a foreigner ſo doing forfeit 5s. and that four drivers are appointed for the purpoſe, one for each ward, to take all ſuch fines; on refusal, to pound the cattle; the ſaid fines ſo paid, to be diſtributed by the mayor to the poor of the town; but theſe privileges were made void, May 29, 1629, and new ones made as follows;

That no free burgeſs, between the 1ſt of Auguſt and the 2d of February, put upon the common three head of great cattle, or ten ſheep, on forfeiture of 2s. 6d. for each head, and for every head that ſhall be found on thoſe lands belonging to a foreigner, 3s. 4d. to be diſtributed among the poor free burgeſſes, their wives, widows, or children; and that on the Monday after the feaſt of St. Mary Magdalen, the mayor and aldermen aſſemble at the Moot-hall, for the purpoſe of chuſing four treaſurers, one for each ward, who ſhall be free burgeſſes, houſholders, paying ſcot and lot, who muſt have lands, tenements and hereditaments to the ſum of 5l. a year, or moveable goods to the amount of 100l. the ſaid choſen treaſurers to nominate the ſame day, four honeſt and diſcreet perſons, free burgeſſes, to be drivers of the ſaid commons; no driver to receive any money for offences committed, but only the four treaſurers; and the ſaid four treaſurers only, may from time to time, agree and compound

for any encroachment or offence whatsoever; and yearly yield unto the mayor and aldermen at the Moot-hall, a true and perfect account in writing, signed with their hands or marks, of all such sums of money and other profits as they shall have received out of, or for the said common lands, upon pain of forfeiting 5l. all which forfeits, &c. to be distributed to the poor burgessees, their wives, widows, and children. The drivers to be paid for every head of cattle that shall be found, and compounded as aforesaid, the sum of 2d. out of the said forfeitures.

By two other constitutions, made 'in August 1633 and 1635, it was ordered, that there should be a herdsman chosen out of each ward, to look after the cattle, and to have for their pains 1d. weekly for every head of great cattle, or ten sheep, to be paid by the owners.

Some parcels of these commons have been made several, or whole-year lands, at divers times, particularly about St. Anne's, and some others; and by articles settled in 1549, the mayor, aldermen, and common-council should not sell any lands, &c. without the whole consent of the body corporate, or the major part of them. These are all the constitutions that have been made at any time about the commons of this town.

Bounds and extent of it's Liberties.

THE liberty of Colchester begins at the outward ditch or rampart on Lexden-heath; and goes to the New Crosse; and from thence to New-bridge; and from New-bridge to Todulnes-bridge; and from Todulnes-bridge to Thomas-bridge; and from Thomas-bridge as far as Blackbrook; and from Blackbrook to the Brook under the corner of Langham Park; and from thence to Lenegores-bridge; and from Lenegores-bridge to Dych-crouche; and from Dych-crouche there runs from the brook beneath a certain water leading to Bere-church; and from Bere-church to Kyngsford; and from Kyngsford before the gate late Robert Manescall's; and so on to the Crosse where the preambulation began.

Government of the Corporation.

THE most ancient government of this town, was like that of the generality of other corporations, by a post grave appointed by the king, so long as it continued a royal demesne, and remained in the crown; but when it came to let to ferm to the burgeses, particularly by king Richard I. they were allowed to chuse for bailiffs whom they pleased out of their own body.

In the 46th of Edward III. the whole commonality chose four sufficient men out of each ward, and being sworn, they elected five more out of each ward, making twenty-four that had never been bailiffs, they proceeded to the election of two bailiffs, which was in Michaelmas week; next they elected eight aldermen, called auditors, two chamberlains, called receivers, a town clerk and serjeants; then the so chosen bailiffs and aldermen, chose sixteen burgessees, who together with the former, had the management, and made ordinances and constitutions for the good of the town; but in Edward the IVth's reign, it was directed in his charter, that sixteen more should be added to the number for the above purpose. There were four clavers and two coroners even in the time of king Hen. IV.

The second charter of king Charles I. incorporated the burgessees of Colchester by the name of Mayor and Commonality, directing them to chuse a mayor and nine other aldermen, sixteen assistants, sixteen common-council, a high steward, a recorder, and a common clerk.

The first charter of king Charles II. ordered twelve aldermen, (including the mayor) eighteen assistants, and eighteen common-council; but his second charter restrains the number of assistants and common-council to fifteen each; and king James lessened yet more, ten aldermen, ten assistants, and ten common-council; but king William and queen Mary granted them their charter in as full and ample a manner as they enjoy at this time.

The

The mayor and other officers are elected on the Monday after the decollation of St. John the Baptist; the manner is thus; the free burgesſes aſſembled in common hall, or the major part of them, nominate and return two aldermen to the bench of aldermen, who retire into the record-room, chuſe one of the two for the year enſuing; they then proceed to four headmen, who nominate for their fellows, five free burgesſes out of each ward, in number twenty-four, proceed to elect two juſtices of the peace, two coroners, four clavers, and a chamberlain, they are ſworn on Michaelmas day, except the four clavers; the laſt mayor is alſo ſworn juſtice, ſo that there are always four juſtices, beſides the recorder, who is a perpetual juſtice during his office. The four ſerjeants at mace, are elected in the ſame manner as the juſtices, coroners, &c. on the Tueſday after Michaelmas day.

The expences of this government are ſupported by an income of 500l. a year, ariſing as follows; reſerved rent in the leaſe of the ſeverals; fines and customs of the water bailiff; rents of ſeveral eſtates and houſes belonging to the corporation; reſerved rents upon leaſehold houſes, and parcels of waſtes, and purpſures, encroachments, &c. profits of law-hundred and other courts, markets, fairs, fines, amerciaments, foreign fines, &c. out of which the following fixed ſalaries are paid to the reſpective officers.

The

The Mayor's fee or salary,	20	0	0
The High Steward's,	10	0	0
Recorder's,	6	13	4
Common Clerk's,	3	6	8
— his livery,	0	15	0
— for pens, ink, paper, &c.	1	7	0
The Chamberlain's wages,	0	13	4
— his livery,	0	15	0
Four Serjeants,	20	0	0
Water Serjeant,	2	0	0
Clerk of the Market,	2	0	0
Cryer,	2	0	0
Coal-keeper,	8	0	0
	£.	77	10 4

The rest, *is said* to be laid out in taxes, repairs, and other incidents.

Upon any important occasions, the Mayor, *High Steward*, *Recorder*, Assistants, and Common-council, assemble at the Moot-hall, as to elect officers, make bye laws, &c. five-and-twenty of them make a house, and those twenty-five make an act, ordinance, constitution, &c. as if the mayor, all the aldermen, assistants, and common-council were present; but if there are not so many assembled, they are dismissed till a new summons. If any of the house, after regular warning given do not appear, or refuse to undertake the office they are elected in, fines are laid upon them. In 1564, and for near two hundred years afterward, the mayor had a chaplain; his business was to preach on Sundays in the

the afternoon, Wednesdays in the forenoon, on the great festivals, on the fast and fair days, coronation days, elections, goal delivery, &c. at a salary of 50l. a year; and such of the corporation who did not attend in their gowns, for the honor of the town, and for the greater state, regularity, and magnificence, were under certain penalties:—*But how are the mighty fallen!* 1785. &c.

Colchester is a borough by prescription, and sent two members to parliament upon record, even before the city of London itself, from the 23d of Edward I. to the present time: the right of electing representatives, is in the mayor, aldermen, common-council, and free burgeses not receiving alms; three ways there are, by which these free burgeses acquire their freedom, or right of voting; namely, by servitude of seven years with a free burges, and admitted before the mayor, &c. and paying the accustomed fees; by being the son, or descendent of a free burges; by being created a free burges, though a foreigner; this is a thing that hath been often practiced, either for certain sums of money, or for honor, or *services* done to the corporation.

These freedoms used to be conferred in the most public manner; but in the last century, the mayor having, of his own authority presumed to make foreigners free; in order to restrain the pernicious custom, it was ordered at an assembly, October 16, 1654, that from henceforth, no foreigner should be made
a free

a free burges, directly or indirectly, but those who were born free, or by servitude, without the consent of the greater part of the mayor, aldermen, assistants, and common-council: this method was so strictly observed, that in 1694, alderman Mott was disfranchised for several misdemeanors; and among the rest, for making a person free without their consent; and July 6, 1697, the above order was enforced by another, which enjoined, that no person being a foreigner, and not having a right to his freedom, should be admitted without the consent of the free burgesses assembled in the common hall, or the major part of them: but notwithstanding this order, Mr. John Raynham, mayor in 1705, two days before the election for representatives for this borough, admitted ninety-six foreigners to their freedoms, of his own authority; and swore them in privately without the town clerk; therefore, in the controverted election in 1710, they were disallowed by the committee of the House of Commons.

At an assembly of the mayor, aldermen, assistants, and common-council, July 17, 1711, they repealed the order made July 6, 1697, and a few years after came to the following resolution, "that the freedom of this borough might be sold to such persons, as by the committee of the mayor, aldermen, assistants, and common-council, or five at the least, should be agreed with, for raising monies for defending the rights, and defraying the necessary charges of the corporation;" accordingly seventy-two freemen were admitted for such sums of money as by the committee aforesaid
were

were agreed to; but May 6, 1714, upon the petition of William Gore and Nicholas Corfellis, Esqrs. complaining of an undue election and return for this borough, the committee of the House of Commons disallowed of the foreigners made free in 1705 and 1713, and resolved, "that the right of making foreigners (not having a right of freedom by birth or service) freemen of the borough of Colchester, is in the mayor and free burgeses of the said borough in common hall assembled;" and this is the last resolution of the House of Commons, notwithstanding which, those new-admitted freemen, and their descendents, have voted ever since.

In October 31, 1728, at a meeting of the mayor, aldermen, &c. eighty-three freemen were made to raise a fund for defending the rights and privileges of the corporation; some short time after ninety more were made; several have also been made at separate times since the grant of this present charter.

The regular way of making foreigners free is, to call a floor, which consists of above fifteen hundred freemen, summoned by proclamation: if the free burgeses give consent, they are admitted good and legal freemen. It is probable that they were not created for the sake of their votes, but for the sake of the privileges and immunities they were intitled to by charter; namely, exemption all over England and the sea-ports, from toll, pontage, murage, and all other duties and impositions on their goods and merchandizes.

It appears, that in the reign of king Edward III. every man born and baptized in this borough, had a right to be free of the same; so that birth, whether the father was a free burgher or no, was then a qualification for freedom, though it might not be the only one; there are also several instances of freemen being disfranchised, or deprived of their freedom, on account of ill behaviour.

In October 21, 1728, at a meeting of the mayor, aldermen, &c. eight of the freemen were made to take a fund for defending the rights and privileges of the corporation; some of them after many more times since the grant of this present charter.

A complete

The regular way of making foreigners free is to call a court, which consists of about fifteen hundred free men, summoned by proclamation; if the free burgesses give consent they are admitted good and legal freemen. It is probable that they were not created for the sake of their votes, but for the sake of the privilege and immunities they were entitled to by charter. There is a court all over England and the town of London, where all the freemen and burgesses are summoned to give their assent to the laws and statutes made by the king and parliament.

A complete List of the Members of Parliament for this Borough

EDWARD I.

- 23 P. at West. Elias Fitz-john de Colchester, Hubert de Colchester.
 26 P. at York, Elias Fitz-john, Roger de Tyrlington.
 28 Linc. Fitz-john, William Plumstead.
 28 West. Fitz-john Ellis, W. de Plumstead.
 30 Lond. Adam Planting, warin Fitz-william.
 33 West. Elias Fitz-john.
 34 Council at West. Will Clerk.
 35 P. at Carlisle, Elias Fitz-john, John de Stratton.

EDWARD II.

- 1 P. at Northton, Will. Clerk, Rob. Olyver.
 4 West. Will. le Plumstead, Will. le Clerk.
 5 Lond. Will. le Clerk, Will. de Plumstead.
 6 West. John de Rattlefden, Jos. Elianore.
 7 Elias Fitz-john, Warin Fitz-william.
 8 Fitz-john, Fitz-william.
 12 York, Fitz-john, Fitz-william.
 12 Rob. de Goldingham, John Parles.
 15 West. Warin Fitz-william, John Parles.
 16 York, Peter de Aston, Elias Fitz-john.
 20 West. Elias Fitz-john, warin Fitz-william.

EDWARD III.

- 1 P. at York, Elias Fitz-john, John Parles.
 2 New Sarum, warin atte welle J. Jordayne.
 2 Northton, John de Rattlefden, John Jordan.
 4 Winchester, John Rattlefden, Ben. Bygod.
 4 West. John Rattlefden, John Alianore.
 6 York, Rattlefden, Ric. Barbour.
 6 West. Rattlefden, warin Fitz-william.
 7 York, Ralph Ode, Matt. Fitz-robert.
 9 West. John Parles, John Rattlefden.
 9 York, Parles, Rattlefden.
 10 C. at Nott. Parles, Rattlefden.
 11 P. at West. Rattlefden, warin atte welle.
 Rattlefden, Matthew Glasfyere.
 Rattlefden, J. Elianore, J. Fynch.
 Alianore, John Parles.
 C. at North. Rattlefden, Roger le Belch.
 P. at West. Alianore, John Parles.
 de Rattlefden, John Crud.
 warin Cade, Elias Fitz-john.
 John Rattlefden, Warin atte Welle.
 de Rattlefden, Will. de Hadely.
 Elias Fitz-john, warin Fitz-william.
 Thomas Dedham, Will. Hadely.
 William Haddelegh, John Parker.
 Thomas de Dedham, Will. Hadlegh.
 William Furnery, John Juscard.
 Richard Dyere, Robert Beche.
 John Attensford, John Hale.
 atte Ford, John Dyere.
 de la Forde, John Alayn.
 de Halle, Will. Rayne.
 de Halle, Rob. atte Ford.
 Halle, Rob. atte Ford.
 Halle, Will. Reyne.
 Halle, John atte Ford.
 atte Ford, John Halle.
 atte Ford, John Halle.

- 43 P. at west. John Halle, John Keck.
 45 C. at Win. Halle.
 46 P. at West. Alexander Coghere, Tho. Fraunceyes.
 47 John Clerk, Simon Fordham.

RICHARD II.

- 2 P. at Glou. Geffrey Downe, Rob. atte Ford.
 3 P. at West. Stephen Barber, John Pailles.
 6 Michael Auger, John Leche.
 6 Richard Henn, John Latche.
 7 Thomas Fraunceys, Ralph Algar.
 7 P. at New Sarum, Tho. Fraunceys, Ralph Algar.
 8 P. at West. John Christian, Alex. Coghere.
 9 Thomas Fraunceyes, Ralph Algar.
 10 Fraunceyes, Algar.
 12 P. at Camb. Simon Fordsham, Ralph Algar.
 13 P. at West. Thomas Faaunceyes, Simon Ford.
 15 Fraunceyes, John Christian.
 20 Henry Bofs, John Scarburgh.

HENRY IV.

- 1 P. at West. Herman Godestone, Tho. Fraunceyes.
 3 Thomas Godestone, Hen. Rofs.
 8 P. at Glou. Godestone, Will. Mate.
 12 P. at West. Godestone, John Pod.

HENRY V.

- 1 P. at West. Tho. Godestone, Tho. Fraunceyes.
 2 John Godestone, Simon Mate.
 3 Ford, John Sumpter.
 5 Tho. Godeston, John Ford.
 7 P. at Glou. Henry Bofs, Will. Mate.
 8 P. at West. Tho. Godestone, John Simberleets.
 9 Tho. Godestone, Will. Nottingham.

HENRY VI.

- 1 P. at West. Thomas Godeston, John Sumpter.
 2 John Sumpter, Simon Mate.
 3 Henry Bofs, John Godestone.
 4 P. at Leices. William Nottingham, Tho. Offkyn.
 6 P. at West. Thomas Godestone, John Sumpter.
 8 John Beeche, Thomas Ofkyn.
 9 Robert Pryour, Robert Selby.
 11 John Beeche, John Trewe.
 13 Beeche, Thomas Ofkyne.
 15 P. at Camb. Robert Selby, Walter Benfen.
 20 P. at West. John Beeche, Thomas Ofkyne.
 25 P. at Camb. Nicholas Peck, John Forth.
 27 P. at West. John Ford, John Sancy.
 28 Rouge, William Letch.
 29 Thomas Attewode, William Ford.
 31 P. at Reading, ——— Pettworth, John Wright.
 38 P. at West. John Baron, John Casthorp.
 39 Bishop.

EDWARD IV.

- 7 P. at West. William Ford, John Botiler.
 12 John Wright, John Bottiller.
 17 Richard Markes, Thomas Smyth.
 The writs, returns, and indentures are all lost from
 17 Edward IV. to the 1st of Edward VI. but we find
 6 Henry VIII. J. Clere.

1 P. at V.
6

1 P. at V.
1 P. at C

1 & 2 P.
2 & 3
4 & 5

1 P. at V.

5

13

14

27

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35

39

43

1 P. We

12

18

21

1 P. We

1

3

15

16

1654

1656

1659

Borough from the 23d Edw. I. to the present Time.

EDWARD VI.

1 P. at West. John Ryther, Esq; John Lucas, Esq;
6 Francis Jobson, Kt

MARY.

1 P. at West. John [Ryther] John Best.
1 P. at Oxf. Francis Jobson, Kt. W. Cardinal, Esq;

PHILIP AND MARY.

1 & 2 P. at West. George Sayer, Robert Browne.
2 & 3 Fran. Jobson, Kt John Herring.
4 & 5 G. Christmas Esq; Th. Lucas Esq;

ELIZABETH.

1 P. at West. Fr. Jobson, Kt. Will. Cardinal, Esq;
5 The same.
13 Hen. Golding, Esq; Fran. Harvey, Esq;
14 Rob. Christmas Esq; Hen. Golding Esq;
In the room of H. Golding, deceased
Nicolas Clere, Alderman, 23 Mar. 1576.
In N. Clere's room deceased Rob. Mid-
dleton 1579.
27 James Morrice Esq; Fran. Harvey Esq;
nominated by Sir Fran. Walsingham.
28 The same-
31 James Morrice, Ar. Throkmorton, Esq;
35 James Morrice Esq; Martin Bessell Alder.
39 Rob. Barker, Ric. Synnell, Gent.
43 The same.

JAMES I.

1 P. West. Robert Barker, Esq; Edw. Alforde, Esq;
12 The same.
18 Will. Towse, Serjeant at law, Town-clerk
Edward Alforde, Esq;
21 The same.

CHARLES I.

1 P. West. Will. Towse, Esq; Edw. Alforde, Esq;
1 Sir Harbottle Grimston, Kt. and Bart.
Will. Towse, Esq; The first being
chosen also for the county, made his
election for it; whereupon Sir Robert
Quarles, Kt. was chosen in his room.
3 Sir Thomas Cheek Kt. Edw. Alford Esq;
5 Sir Will. Masham Kt. and Bar. Harbottle
Grimston, Esq;
6 Sir Tho. Barrington Kt. and Bart. Har-
bottle Grimstone, Esq; in the place of
Sir Tho. Barrington, deceased, John
Sayer, Esq; Oct. 14, 1645.
1654 Col. J. Barkstead, J. Maydstone, Esq;
1656 Henry Laurence, John Maid-
stone, Esq; chosen by the
Mayor, Aldermen and Com-
mon-council. } Double
John Shawe Esq; Col. Biscoe, } return.
chosen by the Fr. Burgesses.
1659 John Maidstone Esq; Abraham
Harrington Esq;
John Shawe Esq; Abrah. Jon-
son, merchant, chosen as above

CHARLES II.

12 P. West. Sir Har. Grimston, Bart. J. Shaw, Esq;
13 The same.
31 Sir Harbottle Grimston, Bart. Sir Walter
Clarges, Bart.
31 The same.
32 P. Oxf. Sir H. Grimston Bart. Sam Reynolds Esq;

JAMES II.

Sir Will. Maynard, Bart. Sir Tho. Fran-
shaw, Kt.
1 P. West. { Sir walter Clarges, Bart. Nathaniel
Laurence, Esq;
Double return.

WILLIAM AND MARY.

1 P. West. Hen. Mildmay, Esq; John wroth, Esq;
2 Sam. Reynolds, Esq; Edw. Cary, Esq;
In the room of E. Cary, deceased, Isaac
Rebow, Esq; Nov. 12, 1692.
7 Sir John Morden Bart, Sir Is. Rebow Kt.
10 Sir Thomas Cook Kt. Sir Isaac Rebow Kt.
12 The same.
13 The same.

ANNE.

1 P. West. Sir Isaac Rebow, Kt. Tho. Cook, Kt.
4 Sir Isaac Rebow, Kt. Edw. Bullock, Esq;
7 Sir Tho. Webster Bart. Sir Is. Rebow Kt.
9 Sir Is. Rebow, Kt. Will. Gore, Esq;
12 Will. Gore, Esq; Nic. Corfellis, Esq;

GEORGE I.

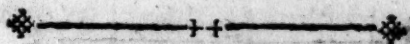
1 P. west. Sir Isaac Rebow, Kt. Ric. Ducane, Esq;
8 Sir Tho. Webster Bart. Mat. Martin Esq;

GEORGE II.

1 P. West. Sam. Tufnell Esq; Stamp Brooksbank Esq;
8 Mat. Martin Esq; Is. Leming Rebow Esq;
In Isaac Rebow's room, deceased, Jacob
Houblon, Esq, 1735.
15 Charles Gray, Esq; Sam. Saville, Esq;
21 The Hon. Richard Savage Nassau, Esq;
Charles Gray, Esq;
28 John Olmius, Esq; Cha. Gray, Esq;
Upon petition—Is. Martin Rebow Esq;

GEORGE III.

1 P. West. Char. Gray, Esq; Is. Martin Rebow, Esq;
8 The same.
14 The same.
20 Isaac M. Rebow Martin, Esq; Sir Robt.
Smyth, Bart.
In the room of Isaac M. Rebow Martin,
deceased,
Christopher Potter, Esq;
Upon petition—Edmund Affleck, Esq;
24 Sir Edmund Affleck, Bart. Christopher
Potter, Esq;
Upon C. Potter's election being declared
void,
Sir Robert Smyth, Bart.
In the room of Sir Edmund Affleck, Bart:
deceased, and upon petition,
George Tierney, Esq;



The several Parishes in Colchester.

TH.E whole town, with the liberties; is divided into sixteen parishes, whereof eight are within the walls; four without; and four within the liberties. The parishes within the walls are, St. Mary's—St. Peter's—St. Runwald's—St. Martin's—Holy Trinity—St. Nicholas's—All Saints—and St. James's. Without the walls, St. Botolph's (of which a little part lies within the walls)—St. Giles's—St. Mary Magdalen's—and St. Leonard's, or the Hythe: and within the liberties, Lexden—Mile-end—Greensted—and Berechurch, or West Donyland.

The churches are mostly built with old Roman bricks and the rubbish of other ancient edifices; and are in general but mean, except St. Peter's, St. Mary's, and St. James's, which are spacious, large and handsome in the inside. That belonging to St. John's abbey was large, and undoubtedly elegant, but not the least step of it remains at this day; nor is it known exactly where it stood, except by tradition. That of St. Botolph, now lying in ruins, was very large, and the western front adorned with a great deal of workmanship neat, and with two towers at the north-west and south-west corners; both the great western door, and the arches between the pillars, are in the right Roman semicircular form, not in the Gothic taste.

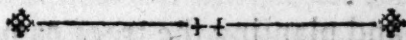
Of the Livings in general.

SEVERAL methods have been attempted at different times, to render the livings a tolerable maintenance, by uniting some of the parishes together, as we find in 1580, 1658, and in 1660, it was ordered that the twelve parishes might be united into four divisions, and that the recorder should be entreated to move the parliament for the uniting them accordingly, but this fell to the ground.

In 1650 an ordinance was passed, entituled an Act for the more frequent preaching of the gospel, and better maintenance of the clergy of this town; it was enacted, that a sum not exceeding the sum of 600l. should be levied upon all houses, &c. within the said town and the liberties thereof, excepting the four hamlets of Lexden, Greensted, Bere-church, and Mile-end, in a tax of 1s. per annum in the pound. By virtue of this act, the mayor, aldermen, and common-council made a rate on the houses and stock, &c. according to the proportions above-mentioned; the treasurer paid quarterly the sum of 100l. a-piece to four ministers, appointed to officiate in the whole town, but this provision ceased at the restoration.

The only effectual augmentations, and the most likely to last, are owing to the munificence of Mr. Henry Batchelor, of Colchester, yeoman; and the Rev. Moses Cook,

Cook, late rector of Heddingham Sible, in this county, who ordered a considerable sum to be paid to the rectory of St. James, and any other three churches which the Bishop of London should appoint.



St. Mary at the Walls.

THIS parish took its name from the church, which is dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin; 'tis called St. Mary at the Walls, in contradiction to the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, and because it stands close to the walls of the town.

The site of it was part of the barony of the Bishop of London; for which reason the rectory hath been all along in the collation of the bishops of that see; and it is subject to them and their commissaries, being wholly exempt from the archdeacon's jurisdiction, to whom it pays neither procurations nor synodals; it stands charged 10l. for first fruits in the king's books, and pays 4s. 6d. to the bishop for procurations, only when he visits.

The church stands pleasantly in the highest part of the town, was rebuilt in the year 1714, near the spot where the old one stood, by Mr. John Price, an eminent architect of Richmond in Surry, for the sum of 1154l. This church was only ten months rebuilding; it is a plain neat church, but not so substantial as many others of the kind. Besides the sum of 1154l. there

was

was 180l. for pewing the church, paving the steeple and alley 60l. 8s. 7d. marble font 3l. 10s. cover to ditto 10s. Next the church-yard was leveled with handsome gravel walks, planted on each side with lime trees, which are much resorted to; the charge of making the walks and planting the trees came to 65l. 17s. 4d. In 1729, the steeple was raised twelve feet with brick, the charge of which with leading, &c. amounted to 234l. 9s. 2d. In this church there is but one bell.

Within the chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr in this church, there was, before the reformation, a chauntry founded, and well endowed by Joseph Elanore; there belonged to it a little house, of one room above and one below, called the Chapel or Chantrie-house, which stood adjoining to the north-side of the church, in length a-cross the present walk between the church and the parsonage, and reaching from the place where is now the south gate of the parsonage garden, to the north door of the church.

The parsonage-house of St. Mary's stands on the north-side of the church; it hath a beautiful prospect on the west and north-west for many miles into the country.

The glebe belonging to this rectory, is in ten small different parcels, and some at a considerable distance from the others, which is very inconvenient: for a list of the incumbents we shall refer our readers through the whole of the parishes to Mr. Newcourt's Repertorium Ecclesiasticum.

St. Peter's.

ADJOINING to St. Mary's on the north and east is the parish of St. Peter. This parish lies in the manor of the corporation. In the parish, south of the church, is the Exchange, anciently known by the name of the Red-row; which whilst the baize trade flourished amongst us, used to be daily frequented by great numbers of substantial merchants; and over it was the Dutch Baize-hall. Near this Exchange, in the High-street, stands a pump, called king Coel's Pump, which is repaired by the neighbours; but there is no proof of the well's being of so ancient a date as king Coel. There formerly was a water-mill near North-bridge.

Thomas duke of Norfolk had lands in this parish, in queen Elizabeth's reign, named Sensdowne. The families of Sayer and Browne, made anciently a considerable figure in this parish.

The church of St. Peter consists of a tyled nave, or body, and two side-ishes leaded, and the chancel hath a north chapel; at the west end of the church is a neat brick steeple, in which are contained eight good bells and a clock. This church is looked upon as the principal in the town, wherein the episcopal and archideaconal visitations are held: in it is a very good organ, the only one in town.

This

This church was in being before the Norman Conquest. It was held in Edward the Confessor's reign, by two priests, for a small quit-rent; and there were adjoining to it some parcel of ploughed land and meadow, and a mill; but after the conquest, Robert Fitz-ralph of Hatinges claimed three parts of it, and Eudo Dapifer had the fourth, in whom the patronage of it originally was; we do not find, but after the foundation of St. Botolph's Priory, it was given to that convent; and continued in their gift as a rectory till the year 1318; but in that year, the prior and canons petitioned Richard Newport Bishop of London, to appropriate the same to the priory, setting forth, that by reason their profits, pensions and portions, were unjustly detained; that more contributions were imposed upon them than usual; that the charges of their hospitality were immoderate, on account of the great concourse of people to the town and castle of Colchester; and by reason of the grievous scarcity, which for two years past and more, had miserably afflicted the whole land; they were greatly in debt; the bishop dying, they applied themselves to Stephen Gravesend, his successor, who being satisfied with the contents, did, on the 16th of January, 131, appropriate the church with its appurtenances, to the said prior and convent, and their successors, to be converted to their own use, and be for ever possessed by them, reserving a power to himself to ordain a vicariage here, and to endow it with a convenient portion according to the revenues of the church; and from thenceforth, the priors and canons presented it as a vicariage.

Upon

Upon the dissolution of the monasteries, king Hen. VIII. granted to Sir Thomas Audeley, in the year 1536, the site of St. Botolph's priory, &c. and the advowsons of the parish churches of St. James, St. Peter, St. Martin, and Mile-end Colchester. Sir Thomas gave them to his brother Thomas, who was seated at Bere-church, and the three first continued in his posterity till after 1700, when Henry Audley, Esq. sold them to bishop Compton, who intended to have settled them upon his bishopric of London; but not doing it, his executor, general Hatton Compton, sold them to bishop Robinson: St Peter's is now a perpetual advowson of itself, and is in the gift of ——— Thoraton, Esq.

Before the reformation, there was a chauntry in this church, founded by Richard Heynes; and a gild of St. John's, called Jesus Masse.

This church was rated in the king's books 10l. for first fruits, and 1l. for tenths; from both which it was discharged by the act of the 5th of queen Anne.

In the year 1574, Nicholas Clere, clothier, and William Hall, woollen-draper, both inhabitants of the parish, enfeoffed John Pye, one of the bailiffs; Thomas Turner, one of the aldermen, and several others, in three fields called Sprottysynhams; another field named Sprottyflond; a certain pasture called Sprottyflmarsh, at the end of Sprottyflane; one croft named the Syk; and another croft called Pagyscroft, all in Great Horkesleigh; and said in one place to contain

forty acres, or more, though it is not so much now;— in trust They have been possessed ever since by the incumbents of this church; they are otherwise called Chamberlaynis and Sprotts.

The vicar hath also three acres of glebe in King's-Meadow; and a field of five acres formerly called Sprotty's-woods, both lying in Mile-end; and an acre of glebe in North-street, named the Golden-acre; besides the little piece without North-gate, on which formerly stood a tenement, as mentioned in Mr. Newcourt and Mr. Morant.

In the year 1719, bishop Robinson augmented this living with 200l. to which were added 200l. of queen Anne's bounty, of which the vicar receives the interest. In 1707, it was certified to the governors of queen Anne's bounty to be but 35l. per annum, certain,

On the east side of the church-yard, is the vicarage-house, a neat modern brick building, with a garden behind the same, which has been much enlarged, within these few years, part of the burying-ground on the east and north sides of the church being converted to that purpose.

St. Runwald's.

EASTWARD of St. Peter's, and adjoining to the same in the High-street, is this parish of St. Runwald, so named from the church which is dedicated to that saint.

As this Saxon saint is not much known, it will be proper to give some account of him; and we have none but a legendary one. He is said to have been son to a king of Northumberland, by a christian daughter of Penda, king of Mercia; being born at King's-Sutton in Buckinghamshire; as soon as he came out of his mother's womb, he cried three times, "I am a christian," then making a plain confession of his faith, he desired to be baptized, chose his godfathers, and his own name Runwald. He also directed, with his fingers, the standers by, to fetch him a great hollow stone for a font, which his father's servants tried in vain to bring; till the two priests, his designed godfathers, did go and fetch it easily. Being baptized, he discoursed for three days of all the common places of popery, and having confirmed the truth of them, (as the legend pretends) he bequeathed his body to remain at Sutton one year; at Brackley two; and at Buckingham ever after. This done, he expired, and was buried in the place of his appointment; but he was chiefly honored at Boxley in Kent.

To return:—This little parish, the least in Colchester, except St. Mary Magdalen's, stands in the heart of the town; it lies in the manor of the corporation, and the butcher's shambles, and other buildings erected on the waste, pay rent or acknowledgements to the mayor and commonality.

In this parish stands the Burgh's Court of Judicature, commonly called the Moot-hall. Here the courts are

held, and all the public affairs of the town transacted; the whole edifice contains the Moot-hall itself; and, north of the same, a large room called the Freemens' Chamber, where meetings are held upon particular occasions; under the same is the Council-room, wherein the records of the town are kept; behind is a small neat Theatre, which was built by subscription in the year 1764, wherein is performed plays, &c. chiefly by a company of comedians, from the Theatre-royal, Norwich, about the months of October and November; it is seldom opened at any other time, or by any other company. The said company is rated in the parish both to church and poor.

Partly under, and partly adjoining to the same, is the Town-goal, for the confinement of felons, &c.

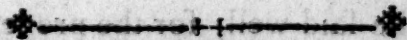
In this parish also stands a public building, erected about the year 1590 for the sale of fruit, butter, poultry, &c. formerly it was used as a wool-market, which was held on a Tuesday, and it continued so till about the year 1735 or 1736.

The church stands inconveniently, and much in the way, in the middle of the High-street; the body of it is one small pace, and built of a mixture of brick and stone; but the chancel is wholly of brick, and seems more modern than the rest; adjoining to the chancel is a north-isle, or rather a chapel; which we find, was dedicated to St. Mary. In the middle of the church stands a little wooden turret, rough cast with hair mortar; formerly it had a leaden spire, which
being

being decayed, was taken down. Here is but one bell; the church-yard is at a distance from the church, on the west side of Angel-lane.

The patronage of this church hath all along been in the family of Tey, or de Tey, which flourished for many generations in divers parts of this county, particularly at Layer-marney and Birch. This church was not used for near an hundred years, and the inhabitants repaired to St. Peter's church, and subscribed to the vicar; it was again opened in the year 1760, and has ever since continued so.

The rector of this parish had anciently a parsonage house in North-street, or on North-hill, as appears from a presentment in the year 1476. Ever since the year 1544 this church hath been held by sequestration; for though it was valued at 7l. 13s. 4d. in Henry the VIIIth's time, when the general survey of all the livings were made, in order to settle the first fruits and tenths. It hath nothing certain but the tithes of between seven and eight acres of land in the borough-field; and the interest of queen Anne's bounty, and of some voluntary contributions.



St. Martin's.

ST. Martin's parish is bounded on the south by St. Runwald's; on the west by St. Peter's; on the north by the town wall, and the meadows next to the river, which are in St. Nicholas and All-Saints; and on the east by the parish of St. Nicholas.

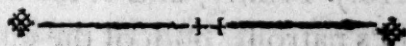
There

There are not above four acres of land in this parish, besides a few garden grounds; by that means the revenues of the living are quite inconsiderable, they consisting only of the interest of queen Anne's bounty, which it obtained by rotation. This church was also shut up for many years, and no clergyman instituted thereto; and the inhabitants resorted to St. Peter's for divine service; but it hath since been opened, and divine service performed for many years past. This parish is in the manor of the corporation, from which a few leaseholds are held.

East and West-Stnckwell-Street in this parish took their name from a certain spring rising in a little lane between those two streets, called Stock-well, which hath been a common well from time immemorial. In 1670, the mayor and commonality, by their indenture, bearing date August 15, demised and granted for five hundred years, at the yearly rent of one penny, to Alice Lambe, spinster, that well or fountain called Stock-well, situate in the common street and waste ground in the parish of St. Martin, Colchester, and so much of the waste ground on the north and west sides of that well, as might be sufficient for inclosing and fencing in of the said well, for the prevention of danger; to the intent, that the said Alice Lambe, should set up a pump in that well, and permit and suffer the neighbourhood thereabouts to pump and take water there for their necessary uses; they contributing and paying to the said Alice Lambe, her executors or assigns, their competent shares and portions towards the charge

charge and maintenance, and repair of that pump and well, and of the fences thereto.

The church of St. Martin stands between East and West-Stockwell-Street, or Angel and Bear-Lanes, the church-yard extending to both. This church consists of a nave and north isle, both tiled; the chancel is only of one single pace, the top of the belfrey was damaged during the siege, and still continues in a ruinous condition; there is only one bell, hanging a little way from the ground.



Holy Trinity.

THE parish of Holy Trinity is bounded on the west by that of St. Mary's; on the south by St. Giles's; on the east by part of the same parish, and of St. Botolph's and St. Nicholas's; and on the north by part of St. Nicholas, St. Runwald, and St. Peter. It hath several parcels of land, which according to the survey taken of them by the parishioners, and entered in the parish book, amounted to sixty-nine acres.

It is within the manor of the corporation, from which a few tenements are held by a twenty-one years lease, but anciently they were held by the rod, in the nature of copyholds.

The church, which is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, stands in Trinity-Street, and consists of a body and south isle, which is also continued the whole length of the

the chancel; they are both tiled; the tower is boarded at the top, and hath in it but one bell.

Bere-church, alias West Donyland, was many years a chapel of ease to this parish, and the rectors of Holy Trinity were instituted to it with that chapel annexed; but in the year 1536, the lord chancellor Audley having obtained the manor of Bere-church-Hall, and fixed his brother Thomas there, was desirous of converting the chapel of that place into a parochial church; for that purpose he procured the consent of William Jaye, then rector of Holy Trinity, and of the abbot and convent of St. John's patrons, both of the church and chapel, to separate them one from the other; having first obtained the king's licence in order thereunto; and by way of recompence to the said William Jaye, (who then averred, he made not 43s. a year of the profits of that chapel) the lord chancellor Audley, settled on him, and his successors for ever, certain messuage, lands, and hereditaments in Ardley and Dedham, or of one of them, (about sixty acres in all) called Porters; and a portion of tithes in Bures St. Mary's, being 10s. parcel of the possession of the late-dissolved priory of St. Botolph.

The church obtained also in 1739, the benefit of 200l. of queen Anne's bounty jointly with 200l. part of 1000l. legacy left by the Rev. Mr. Brooke, for the augmentation of five small livings in the gift of any bishop, dean and chapter, or college: with those 400l. and a sum added by the Rev. Mr. Lidgould the rector, there was a farm purchased at Walton in le Soken, by the

the governors of queen Anne's bounty, and settled for ever upon this living.

The patronage of this church was, and continued in the abbot and convent of St. John's, till their suppression; upon that it came to the crown, and remained in the gift of the lord chancellor, till June 27, 1702, when John earl of Northampton obtained it, (with St. Nicholas and St. Leonard in this town, and the vicarage of Ewell in Surry) from queen Anne, in exchange for the rectory of Cherncote, alias Serncote, in Wiltshire, and the 19th of December following, conveyed them to his uncle, Dr. Henry Compton, bishop of London. This good bishop being visitor of Balliol college, had often declared, in the hearing of his nephew and executor, general Hatton Compton, that he designed to leave those advowsons to the college; but died without having fulfilled his intent. After the bishop's death, the executor endeavouring to perform what the bishop, to his knowledge intended; did discover, that the conveyance of the above-mentioned churches to George earl of Northampton was invalid and ineffectual, inasmuch as they were conveyed as vicarages, being in reality rectories; this being signified to George earl of Northampton, he obtained a second grant of queen Anne, dated May 18, 1713, of the rectories (not vicarages) of St. Nicholas, St. Leonard, and Holy Trinity in Colchester; and on the 5th of July, 1714, the said earl and his kinsman, the honorable Hatton Compton, Esq. above-mentioned, executor

of the last will of Dr. Henry Compton, bishop of London, conveyed those three rectories to Balliol college.

After the church of St. Mary had been laid in ruins, as is above related; this church of Holy Trinity was held by sequestration, by the rectors of St. Mary's, and served for a place of divine worship to both parishes. The rector of this parish hath now no parsonage-house; but from the year 1349 to 1508, the bailiffs and commonality used to grant to the rector of this parish, generally during his life, a messuage for his rectory or dwelling-house, opposite to the church-yard, which was copyhold, and held of them by the rod, at will; but is now incorporated. From this messuage the rector of Holy Trinity owed suit at the law-hundred courts of this borough.

This parish had the honor of giving birth to, and also of being the seat and residence of the most learned Dr. William Gilbert, author of the book *De Magnete, or the Loadstone*; and here it will not be improper to give some account of that great man. He was the son of Hierom Gylberd, gent. born at Clare in Suffolk, and admitted a free burgess of Colchester in 1553, and some time recorder of the same. His great grandfather, Thomas Gilbert, born at Hinticlissham in Suffolk, was also made a burgess of this town in 1428. Dr. Will. Gilbert was born in the year 1540, and studied in both our universities; afterwards he travelled into foreign countries, where, probably, he had the degree of Doctor in Physic conferred upon him; for he did not
appear

appear to have taken it either at Oxford or Cambridge. At his return, being famed for his learning, great knowledge in philosophy, and admirable skill in chemistry, he became a member of the College of Physicians, London; and also chief physician to queen Elizabeth, who had so high a value for him, that she allowed him an annual pension, to encourage him in his studies: he was also chief physician to king James I. In 1600 he published his book, *De Magnete magnetisque corporibus & de magno Magnete Tellure, Physiologia nova.* Lond. 1600, folio. Of the Magnet, (or Loadstone) and magnetical bodies, and of that great magnet the Earth. He also left in manuscript, *De Mundo nostro sublunari Philosophia, nova, i. e.* Of our sublunary world, which was published at Amsterdam, in 1651, 4to. from a M. S. in the library of Sir William Boswell, knt. He likewise invented two most ingenious and necessary instruments for seamen, to find out the latitude of any place, without the help of the sun, moon and stars; made public by Thomas Blondville, at London, 1602, 4to. Dr. Gilbert died November 30, 1603, and was buried in the chancel of this church where there is a monument for him. By his will, he gave all his books in his library, his globes, instruments, and cabinet of minerals to the College of Physicians, London. His picture is in the School-gallery at Oxford, which shews him to have been of stature tall, and a chearful countenance: He had four brothers, Ambrose—William, a proctor in the Arches—Hierom—and George.

St. Nicholas.

ST. Nicholas's is the next parish in order after Trinity; it joins it, and to St. Runwald's, on the west; to St. Botolph's, on the south; to All-Saints, on the east; and to part of this last, and to St. Martin's, on the north.

By the terrier taken in 1610, it appears, that there belonged then to this parish above twenty-two acres of land, but they have been mostly invaded by other parishes; so that it retains at present only a piece in the Lion-walk; wherein, on the east side, stands the Independent meeting-house; it is a large neat modern brick octagon building, built in the year 1767. It formerly was in More-lane, in the parish of St. Botolph.

This parish lies within the manor of the corporation; only two tenements in St. Helen's-lane, formerly parcel of the possessions in St. John's abbey, are held of the manor of West Donyland, at the will of the lord.

In St. Helen's-lane in this parish, on the east side, stands a plain round building, erected by the Rev. Mr. Wesley, and is named Wesley's Chapel; commonly called the Methodist's Meeting. On the west side of this lane is the chapel of St. Helen; adjoining to which is a small meeting-house for the people called Quakers; there is also a large one on the west side of Bear-lane,
but

But the latter is in the parish of St. Martin. Not far from it, in Bucklesbury-lane, stands also the Presbyterian meeting-house, which was erected in 1693.

There is an Alms-house in Culver-lane in this parish, for four poor persons; founded and endowed by Ralph Finch; of which we shall give an account hereafter, under the head of gifts and benefactions.

The church of St. Nicholas stands on the south-side of the High-street, about the middle of the town; it consists of a body or nave tiled, and a south isle leaved, the tower is partly built on the north wall, in it are five bells, and a clock projecting out into the street, which occasions this to be vulgarly called the Dial-church; on the top of the tower there is a small bell in a lantern, for the clock. About ninety years ago, the tower being grown ruinous, a workman from London was employed to repair it; accordingly he began, but one day, as he was gone to dinner, the tower fell upon the body of the church and the chancel, and beat the roof of it in. In 1721, the west end of the church was repaired, and new pewed, at the charge of 68*l*. but the east end, and the chancel still continue ruinous. A new belfrey built with timber, and boards painted, was erected in 1729, in the manner described above, of which the charge amounted to 43*l*. There were prayers formerly in this church every day at three o'clock, but have been discontinued many years.

This rectory had been held by sequestration: the parsonage-house joins to the church in the High-street, and

and stands over the passage into the church-yard; was repaired by the parish in 1695, as appears by an inscription on the top of that passage. About the year 1754, one Mr. Charles Saunders left to the rector, for the time being, an house standing in the middle of the street, opposite the Red-Lion in this parish, in opposition to a plan then in contemplation by the corporation, for pulling down the row of houses standing in the middle of the street, together with the church of St. Runwald, and market-cross, in order to make the street more open and commodious, but they did not pursue their design, and it still remains.

✱ ——— ✱

All-Saints, or All-Hallows.

THE parish of All-Saints, so named from the church which is dedicated to all the saints in general, comes next in order. On the west, it is bounded by St. Nicholas's; on the south, by St. Botolph's; on the east, by St. James's, and part of St. Botolph's; and on the north, by Mile-end.

It is within the manor or corporation, which receives quit-rents for buildings and encroachments upon the waste, but some houses in Culver's-lane are within the manor of Shawe's.

The castle is extra-parochial, as hath been observed above in the description of it; but it is taxed in this parish, together with Sheep's-end-field, and the Castle-bailey.

Sir

Sir John Shawe, who distinguished himself by his attachment to the royal cause during Oliver Cromwell's usurpation, lived in this parish. He was the son of John Shawe of Colchester, gent. by Mary his wife, daughter of — Lufkin of Ardleigh: Sir John being brought up to the law, was, at the restoration, made Recorder of Colchester. In the years 1659, 1660, and 1661, he was chosen one of the representatives in parliament for this borough, and died in 1690, aged 73. By his lady Thamar, daughter and heir of Sam. Lewis, of Raydon in Suffolk, Esq. he had issue, Sir John, his eldest son and heir; Samuel, who died April 16, 1677; Thomas, rector of Greenstead and Great Holland; he died May 3, 1692, aged 40; Jeremy, father of Gabriel Shawe, Esq. of Thorp. The daughters were, Thamar, Mary, mother of Joseph Thurston, Esq. late recorder; Abigail, Penelope, which died in 1699; Hannah and Elizabeth, who died July 16, 1683, aged 19. Sir John Shawe, the younger, was born in 1648, he was called up to the degree of a Serjeant at Law in 1677, and knighted, and died January 13, 1681. His son and heir, John Shaw, Esq. married about 1677, Anne, daughter of Thomas Broom, Esq. serjeant at law, and had issue by her John Shaw, Esq. Anne and Thomas. To his second wife he took, in 1703, Jane Lessingham, widow. He died in April 1708.

John Shaw, last mentioned, died without issue about 1715, whereupon the family estate being directed by a decree in chancery to be sold, Jane Shaw, (formerly Lessingham)

Leffingham) who had survived her husband, purchased the house in this parish, and her executors sold it to Mrs. Elizabeth Cornelisen, widow, who pulled it down, and caused a new one to be built at her own expence; which, by will, she gave to her neice, then the wife of Ralph Cressied, Esq. and married since to Charles Gray, Esq. who greatly improved the gardens, by adding thereto the Castle hills, &c. since his death his widow still resides in the same.

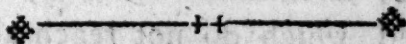
In this parish also (in the house, late alderman Boys's) formerly lived the learned Thomas Skinner, M. D. being then physician to General Monk; after some years residence here, he removed to Lincoln, where he died; he was author of *Motus Compositi, Etimologicon Linguae Anglicae; The life of General Monk, &c.*

The church stands on the south side of the High-street, near the corner of Queen's-street; it consists of a nave tiled, and a north isle leaded, which extends the whole length both of the church and chancel. At the west end, there is a handsome tower, neatly built with flints, in which are five bells. The south wall of the church is built in the Roman, that is the herring-bone fashion; there formerly were prayers in this church every day at eleven o'clock.

The patronage of this church, before the reformation, was in St. Botolph's Priory; upon the dissolution of the same, the advowson of this church was granted to Sir Thomas Audley, Lord Chancellor of England by the king's letters patent, dated May 26, 1537; Sir
Thomas

Thomas Audeley, lord chancellor of England, by the king's letters patents, dated May 26, 1537; Sir Thomas gave it to his brother Thomas, settled at Berechurch, in whose posterity it continued, till the late Henry Audley, Esq. sold it to Dr. Compton, bishop of London; and he settled it (with the rectory of Tendring) upon Balliol college, Oxon, of which he was a visitor.

The parish of St. Botolph, and the several portion of tithes, which the prior and convent used to receive in and about this town, are united and annexed to this rectory, (as will be known under St. Botolph's) which makes it a pretty good living. At the west end of the church there is a neat parsonage-house, with a garden nearly round the same.



St. James's.

THE eighth and last parish, whose church lieth within the walls, is this of St. James; it is bounded on the west by All-Saints, and part of St. Botolph's; on the south, partly by St. Botolph's, St. Giles's, and St. Mary Magdalen's; on the east, by St. Leonard's, Greenstead, and part of St. Botolph's; and on the north by Mile-end.

Part of this parish lies within the manor of the corporation, of which several tenements and pieces of ground are held; and part within the manor of Shawe's;

but three tenements, formerly belonging to St. John's abbey, are held of the manor of West Doniland, by copy of court-roll, at the will of the lord.

In this parish, just without East-gate, lived Samuel Reynolds, Esq. who was one of the representatives for this borough in the last parliament of king Charles II. and in the first and second parliament of king William and queen Mary; he died August 23, 1694. His heirs have since parted with the house he lived in; but still have estates in this county, particularly at Peldon.

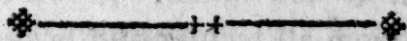
The town gallows stood anciently in this parish, even before the year 1378; and there is a field which to this day bears the name of the gallows field.

The church of St. James is large, regular, and tolerably handsome; it consists of a body, tiled, and two side-issles leaded, which do not reach above half the way of the chancel. Over the altar is an handsome piece of painting, presented to this parish by the ingenious Mr. Carter, a native of this town, who having a taste for painting, went to Italy, where, by close application and study, became a proficient in that art; after some time spent in that useful science, he returned to England, and sometime after presented the above painting, as a small token of gratitude for favors he had received in his youth, and is worthy of the public's curiosity. At the west end of the church stands a square tower, in which there is only one bell, besides that on a turret at the top for the clock to strike upon: both church and tower are built of Roman brick
and

and stone; but the chancel is in a more elegant manner, with a mixture of polished stones and flint.

While the monasteries subsisted, this rectory continued in the gift of the prior and convent of St. Botolph; but upon the dissolution of that house, king Henry VIII. granted this advowson, amongst others, in the year 1536 to Sir Thomas Audeley,* lord chancellor, who gave it to his brother Thomas Audeley of Bere-church, Esq. In his family it continued till after the year 1700; it was purchased by bishop Robinson, and his widow, Mrs. Robinson, sold it to Samuel Hill, Esq. who exchanged it in 1724 with the crown, for the vicarage of Shernston, in Staffordshire, where Mr. Hill had an estate.

The rector had formerly a parsonage-house on the south side of East-hill, just without East-gate, where lies a piece of glebe belonging to him, but it hath been down many years; he hath also a small parcel of glebe, but the castle lands being exempted from tithes, on account of their paying them anciently to the chapel in the castle; by that means this living is but small.



St. Botolph's.

THIS parish is bounded on the west by part of St. Nicholas's, of Holy Trinity, and St. Giles's; on the south, by the same St. Giles's; on the north, by part of St. Nicholas's, All-Saints, St. James's, Mile-end,

* This great man so often mentioned, was once town-clerk of this borough.

end, and Ardleigh; and on the east, by part of St. Mary Magdalen's, St. Leonard, Greenstead, and St. James's.

In Eld-lane, within this parish also, is the Anabaptist's meeting-house, near which, in a place named the Red-house, formerly lived John Bastwick, doctor of physic, who made so much noise in the last century. He was born at Writtle in this county, in the year 1593, and entered into Emanuel college, Cambridge, May 19, 1694, where he continued but a little while. Leaving the university without a degree, he travelled beyond sea for the space of nine years, where he spent his time between the school and the camp; and was made doctor of physic at Pardau. Upon his return to England, he settled in this town, where he practiced physic for awhile; but some books he published, disagreeable to the court, brought him into very great troubles.

The care of this church and parish, was in the canons-regular till their suppression; the inhabitants resorting for divine service to the church here, which was parochial as well as convential. Upon the dissolution, its exemption from all secular and ecclesiastical jurisdiction was abolished; and king Edward VI. annexed it April 1, 1550 to the see of London for ever; which was confirmed by queen Mary I. March 2, 1555; and Sir Thomas Audeley, having obtained from king Hen. VIII. anno 1536, the priory of St. Botolph, and the whole site of the same, with the rectory and all its appurtenances; did, in consideration of certain cove-
nants

nants and agreements made between him and the parishioners of All-Saints, Colchester, grant, bargain, and sell, to the rector of that church, and his successors for ever, all and singular the tithes of hay, wood, corn, and of any other kind or nature soever, within the town of Colchester, or elsewhere; belonging to him by reason of the dissolution or resignation of the priory of St. Botolph aforesaid; but this matter not being fully settled in his life time, he renewed that grant in his will, dated April 19, 1544; and, after his decease, Sir Edward North, and Sir Thomas Pope, knts. executors of the last will and testament of him the said lord chancellor Audeley, jointly with Edmund Marten, Thomas Gynlett, and Thomas Audeley, Esq. brother of the aforesaid lord Audeley; for the greater and more perfect accomplishment, performance, and exaction of the covenants and grants above-mentioned; and also in consideration of the sum of forty pounds sterling, paid by Richard Awilde and William Hutton, wardens of the church of All-Saints, to the said Thomas lord Audeley, in his life time, in full purchase and bargain of the said tithes; do give, grant, sell and confirm to Robert Plumpton, rector of All-Saints, and his successors for ever, all the tithes afore-mentioned, within the town of Colchester and elsewhere. This deed bears date May 14, 1544.

There was formerly a chantry in this church.

In this parish was born Dr. Samuel Harfnet, archbishop of York, in the last century: He was the son
of

of William Harfnet, a baker, and born in St. Botolph's street, June 1561; having acquired competent school learning, he was sent to Cambridge, and admitted in King's college, in 1576; from thence he removed to Pembroke-hall, of which he became scholar, and was elected fellow of the same in 1583. The year following, he took his master of arts degree. In 1586, he was chosen master of the free-school in this town, which he kept more than a year and an half. In June, 1597 he was instituted to the vicarage of Chigwell in Essex, which he resigned in 1605. In 1598 he was collated to the prebend of Mapestbury in St. Paul's cathedral, and in 1602, to the archdeaconry of Essex. In 1604 he was admitted to the rectory of Shenfield in this county; he was also rector of St. Margaret's, New Fish-street, London. In 1605, upon the resignation of bishop Andrews, he was chosen master of Pembroke-hall, and served the office of vice-chancellor the same year, as he did again in 1614. In the year 1606, he was instituted to the vicarage of Hutton. In 1609 he was elected bishop of Chichester; in 1619 he was translated to Norwich; but being one of those who were branded with the name of Arminians, he underwent some trouble from the puritan faction, and in May 1624 was accused by the Commons, of several misdemeanors. Upon the death of George Montaigne, archbishop of York, being translated to that archbishoprick, he was elected in 1628, and in the following year sworn to the Privy Council. He died at Morton in the Marsh, in Gloucestershire in May 1631, and was buried in Chigwell church. He had founded a free-school

school at Chigwell before his decease: and by his will bequeathed, to the poor of St. Botolph's, Colchester, where he was born, 10l. of Shenfield 10l. of Stythead 10l. and to the town of Colchester all his library for the use of the clergy of these parts.

St. Giles's.

THE parish of St. Giles is bounded on the north and west by St. Botolph's, and by part of Holy Trinity, of St. Mary's, and also of Stanway; on the south, by part of Layer-de-la-Hay, Bere-church, and East Doniland: and on the east, by the last-mentioned parish, by the channel, and the Hythe.

A hamlet in this parish is called the Old Hythe, because wares and merchandizes brought to this town by water, used to be unloaded there.

A small part of this parish lyeth within the manor of the corporation, and among the rest St. John's-green, but the greatest part is within the manor of West Doniland. The manor of Batteswick, at the Old Hythe, lies chiefly within this parish. In this parish also lay the rich and stately abbey, dedicated to St. John the baptist, but there is nothing of it remaining but the beautiful gateway, and garden walls.

John Lucas, Esq. having purchased of Sir Francis Jobson, knight, the site of this abbey, converted, the
remains

remains of it into a feat, and that noble family have had their residence there for many years, and their names often occur in the records of the town, some of whom served the office of sheriff of the county of Essex, bailiff, recorder, and town-clerk of the borough of Colchester.

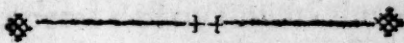
Sir Charles Lucas, youngest brother of John lord Lucas, the last of that noble family, was bred up to arms under the Prince of Orange, and was one of the best commanders of horse king Charles ever had; he signalized himself for the royal cause in several places, particularly in the defence of this town, against the lord Fairfax in 1648, as may be seen in the Siege just published. He died without issue.

The church of St. Giles stands near the north-west corner of St. John's garden, and behind the site of the late abbey-church; it consists of a body and a north aisle, built of a mixture of Roman brick and stone; the north wall is chiefly of flints, and neat; only the chancel, and a very small part of the church are used for divine service, the rest lying in ruins. In the room of the tower there is a boarded building, which contains one small bell.

The site of St. John's abbey, and most of its demesnes lying in this parish, were exempted from paying tithes; undoubtedly by an express Pope's Bull; for that reason, this living was returned to the governors of queen Anne's bounty, to be worth but 30l. per

per annum; but since that, it hath been augmented by the Rev. Mr. Francis Powell.

Whilst St. John's abbey subsisted, the abbot and monks were proprietors of the tithes and advowson of St. Giles, and supplied their cure by their own members, or such as they appointed. At the suppression of the monasteries, it passed for a donative, or perpetual curacy, of which no valuation was taken in the king's books.



St. Mary Magdalen's,

IS to be viewed in a double light, as a distinct parish, and an hospital; it is the least parish in Colchester, for it contains but few houses; and about fifty acres of land; the smallness of the parish has brought it to very great distress; for, having been always inhabited by weavers, and the poorer sort of people, many of them become extremely, nay almost intolerably chargeable, so that in 1694, the inhabitants represented in a petition to the mayor and commonalty, that their weekly disbursements to the poor were 1l. 3s. 6d. and their extraordinaries often 1l. or 3os. a week besides; and there were but seven persons in the parish able to pay. They had then 5s. a week out of Trinity parish; notwithstanding which, they petitioned for relief; the landholders having for the quarter past, paid to the poor the full value of their rents.

St. Mary Magdalen's hospital, designed at first for leprous and infirm people, was founded at the command of king Henry I. by Eudo and his steward, the same munificent person that was the founder of St. John's abbey; and dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen; the original endowment of it was much the same as of the present hospital; but it had, besides, the tithes of St. John's abbey, which were distributed to the poor here in a certain portion of bread, beer, and meat every day.

King Stephen gave them eighteen acres of land in perpetual alms, out of which they used to pay 3s. 5d. per year, towards the ferm of Colchester. King Hen. II. took them, and all their possessions into his protection, as those who were of the alms of his grandfather, king Henry I. and confirmed to them 6l. out of Brightlingsea manor, which that king had given them; enjoining, that none should molest them, nor put them upon pleas, except before the king in person, or his justices by his order. King Richard I. granted them a fair of two days in the year, namely, on the vigil and feast-day of St. Mary Magdalen; he also took them, and all they had, into his protection; ordering, that no brother should be admitted into the hospital, without the consent and will of the said lepers; all which privileges were amply confirmed by king Henry III. Edward III. and Richard II.

But in the time of king Edward I. abbot Adam de Campes not only with-held their tithes, and the pension

son of 6l. above-mentioned; but also having craftily desired to see their charter, flung it into the fire; took away their common seal, and compelled them to swear obedience to him, and turned such as refused out of their dwellings; for redress whereof the poor brethren applied to parliament, and were reinstated. The master of this hospital was anciently named prior of the hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, and owed suit at the law-hundred courts.

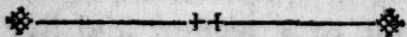
Upon the general destruction of the hospitals in king Edward the VIth's reign, this underwent the common fate; however, it doth not seem to have been immediately granted away, for, in the year 1558 it was held by Bonner, bishop of London in free alms; after that, the lands belonging to it were squandered away, and some irrecoverably lost; and the chapel of the hospital was totally demolished. Queen Elizabeth in the year 1565, granted the revenues lately belonging thereto, to Nicasius Yetfweirt, her secretary for the French tongue, and one of the clerks of the signet; but king James I. in order to bring it again to its pious and charitable use, refounded it in 1610, under the title of, The College or Hospital of king James, within the suburbs of the town of Colchester; restoring all the lands, revenues, possessions, &c. whatever settled at first upon it by the founder; ordaining, that it should consist of a master, and five poor persons, single, or unmarried; that the master should have the cure of souls of the parishioners of the parish of St. Mary Magdalen in the town of Colchester, celebrate

x 2

divine

divine service there, faithfully preach the word of God, and duly administer the sacraments, either by himself, or by a sufficient minister or curate, and pay each of the said five poor persons 52s. a year at the four terms of the year, by equal portions; that they should be placed in for life, and chosen by the master; that they should be a body corporate, and have a common seal. That the master, with the attorney and solicitor general's consent and concurrence, might make all proper laws and ordinances for the better regulation and management of this hospital, and the revenues of the same. Finally, the king granted and confirmed to them, all the liberties, franchises, immunities, exemptions, privileges, lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever, which any master and poor of this hospital had at any time enjoyed. The visitor, is the lord chancellor, or lord keeper of the great seal, who puts in the master.

The church of St. Mary Magdalen stands on the north side of Magdalen-green, and is a very small building, of one pace, tiled. The little chancel is modern, and built of brick. In the wooden turret at the west end, is one bell. The west end and turret were damaged by lightning, in the year 1739, but have been since repaired.



St. Leonard's, alias the Hythe.

THIS parish is named St. Leonard's from the church which is dedicated to that saint; and the Hythe, from

from the harbour that lies within the parish; it is but a small parish, having on the west and south, St. Mary Magdalen's, and part of St. James's, St. Botolph's, and St. Giles's; on the east, Greenstead; and on the north, part of St. Botolph's and St. James's.

This parish is within the manor of the corporation, which hath there some profitable pieces of waste, leased out for coal-yards, lime-kilns, a saltcote, &c. that bring in a considerable yearly income to the mayor and commonalty.

What renders this parish most considerable, and brings thither a pretty good traffick, is the conveniency of water-carriage, for the channel that comes up to it opens into the German sea, and the tide flows here from five to seven feet at a neap, and nine or ten feet at a spring tide; so that a vessel of an hundred tons, loaded, can come up with ease to the quay, and several vessels of large burthens have been built here within these few years. This is what hath made Colchester pass for a port, and been honored as such, though the town is in reality eight or nine miles distant from the nearest sea-shore. Its arms as a port, are a raven, and the chief magistrate was named Port-reve.

The goods formerly brought to this town, were unloaded at the Old Hythe till about the year 1250.

The first act of parliament which passed for making this river navigable, was November 8, 1623, the second in 1698, by this it appears, that the river and channel
were

were then so filled, choaked, and stopped up between the Hythe-mill and Wivenhoe, and such points of land in process of time so grown up, that ships and other vessels could not come up to the accustomed landing place, by which means the inhabitants of this town were put to great charges for the carriage of their goods between Wivenhoe and Colchester, which was not only prejudicial to them, but to all other traders, and would be yet more injurious to them, if some speedy course or remedy were not taken for repairing, amending, and maintaining the said channel and river, by clearing, cleansing, deepning, and widening the same, and cutting cross such point and points of land as were so grown up as aforesaid. In order therefore to defray the charge thereof, it was enacted, that from the 1st day of May, 1698, for, and during the term of twenty-one years thence next ensuing, all merchants, owners, or occupiers of any goods, wares, and merchandizes, brought into the said river and channel; and landed at, or shipped from, Wivenhoe, or the New Hythe in Colchester, or between either of the said places, should pay the duties and sums following:—For every baize, say, or perpetuane, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per piece; for every ton of timber, 6d. for every ton of chalk or lime, 3d. for every ton of paving-stone, 6d. for every ton of all other kinds of stone, or of tobacco-pipe clay, ashes, or pan-tiles; and for every chaldron of fuller's-earth, or sea-coals, 1s. for every tun of oil, 3s. for every tun of wines or brandies, 5s. and for every ton of all other goods, wares and merchandizes, not before particularly

ticularly expressed, &c. and so after the same rate and proportion for every greater or lesser quantities.

And in order to make the said channel and river more convenient, navigable, and passable for ships and vessels from Wivenhoe up to the New Hythe, it was further enacted, that it should and might be lawful for the mayor and commonalty, their assigns and workmen, to cut all the land and ground, which the said mayor and aldermen should have assigned and laid out for such channel of the said river, not exceeding one hundred feet in breadth; and to make new, or larger, all such cuts, trenches, or passages for water, in, upon, or through, such land or ground, as they should think fit or necessary for the better effecting and carrying on the said undertaking; making satisfaction to the owners, occupiers and proprietors of such land and ground.

In 1719 another act was obtained, for enlarging the time granted, and for making it more effectual, it was to last from May 1, 1719, to May 1, 1740, and the duties thereby granted, were one moiety, or half part of the duties granted by the former act, as were in the said former act mentioned, and no more.

It likewise enacted, that all ships and vessels taking ballast in the river Colne, should be obliged to take the same of such person or persons as should be from time appointed by the commissioners; which ballast should be got in the channel, and not elsewhere.

And,

And, that it might be lawful for the mayor and commonalty, or their assigns, at any time during the continuance of this act, to make and use a track-path, for one or more horse or horses, from Wivenhoe to the Hythe at Colchester; on one side of the river, and from Fingringhoe to the said Hythe on the other side, as the mayor and commonalty should think necessary, first agreeing with the respective proprietors of the land for the same. All sorts of corn or grain was declared exempt from any channel duty whatsoever imposed by this act.

Some time after, a lock was erected on the channel, which was found of very great use and service; but, because it could not be supported, and the channel be kept cleansed and fit for navigation, unless some further provision were made by parliament for the same; an act therefore was procured in 1740, for further enlarging the term granted by the two last acts; after continuing and confirming them for ever, (except where altered by this act) it declared and enacted, that the duty granted and to be raised and continued, by virtue of this act, should be 3d. a chaldron and no more, for every chaldron of sea-coal, and so after the rate for any greater or less quantity; which said duty shall continue, and be in full force and effect, from the 1st. day of May, 1740, for and during the space and term of forty years, and no longer; and no other duty except the arrears under the said recited acts, or either of them, shall be raised upon any other goods, wares, merchandizes, or things whatsoever; and, to prevent

prevent damage being done to the lock or gates, it enjoined, that none should open or shut the gates of the said lock, but such person or persons only as should be duly appointed by the commissioners, on pain of forfeiting to the mayor and commonalty any sum not exceeding ten pounds.

In 1780 another act was obtained for the same purpose as the former ones, with an additional clause, which was for the removing all annoyances and obstructions in the streets and lanes of the town of Colchester, and for lighting the same; and that a sum not exceeding sixpence in the pound, be levied upon all houses, tenements and hereditaments throughout the said town, which monies are collected by the surveyors of the several parishes.

There is a custom-house here, in which for the better securing and managing of his majesty's revenues, are the following officers: a collector, a comptroller, a surveyor, two land waiters; one here and the other at Wivenhoe; a surveyor of the customs, and three riding officers; four coal-meters, and a corn-meter; there belongs also a sloop to this custom-house, in which is about thirty men.

An account is given above of the Hythe-bridge, and of the time when it was made; before that, there was only a foot-bridge, erected about the year 1406, or 1407, by the consent of the bailiffs and of twenty-four of the council of the town, who covenanted with those inhabitants to whom liberty was given of build-

ing it, that it should not be above eighteen inches wide, and never be fit for horse or cart to go over; if it were otherwise, or proved any prejudice to this town, it was immediately to be demolished; and it was so built, as not to hinder the navigation up to East-bridge.

There was anciently a water-mill here, consisting of two corn-mills, and two fulling-stocks, which being found a hurt to the channel was taken down.

The Dukes of Norfolk had formerly estates and land in this parish.

The church of St. Leonard is neat, well proportioned, and well built; it consists of a nave tiled, as is also the chancel; and two isles, which go the whole length both of the church and chancel, leaded; the roof of the church, and of the side isles, is of exquisite workmanship; the roof of the chancel is wainscotted, and on the boards are painted the patriarchs or ancestors of Jesus Christ, according to his genealogy in St. Matthew and St. Luke.

This rectory was in the gift of St. John's abbey till the suppression of that house, when it came to the crown. In 1702 bishop Compton obtained it by way of exchange, as is related above under Holy Trinity; and in 1714 George earl of Northampton, and his kinsman the honorable Hatton Compton, Esq. conveyed it, among others, to Balliol-college in Oxford, where it still continues.

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Parishes within the Liberty.

HAVING thus finished the account of the twelve parishes that are properly within this town, we come now to describe those four that are at some small distance from it, but within its liberties: they are Lexden, St. Michael's Mile-end, Greenstead, and Berechurch, or West Doniland; of those

Lexden.

is the largest and most populous; it stands about a mile west from the town, in the road to London; on the east it is bounded by St. Mary's, part of Holy Trinity, of St. Peter's, and Mile-end; on the north by this latter, and part of West Bergholt; and on the west and south by Stanway, and part of St. Mary's. From whence the name is derived cannot easily be discovered. The learned William Baxter imagined, it was so called from LEG, that is the 14th legion quartered here; and a friend fancied, it took its denomination from LEX, or Law, because the hundred court used to be held there; but it is called Lessendena in Doomsday-book; however it be, at the time of William the Conqueror's survey, Lessenden was only a berewite, that is, a village or hamlet, in Stanway manor, as Layre also was. In Edward the Confessor's time, it contained within 4 hides, 6 villans, 10 borders, 4 servants, 4 carucates held by the tenants, and was worth 22l: at the time of the survey, it contained

8 villans, 12 borders, 5 servants, 2 carucates in demesne, and 3 belonging to the tenants; mast for 100 hogs, 18 acres of meadows, 2 mills, and 16 socmen in 2 hides, and 36 acres; always 2 carucates and an half, and was worth 33l. besides 3l. fine: When it was separated from the capital manor of Stanway, and made a distinct manor we cannot learn.

Sir Thomas Lucas about the year 1612 purchased this manor and estate for his children.

Thomas, he was knighted by king Charles I. and resided sometime here; but during the civil wars, he was sequestred for delinquency; he married Mary, daughter of Sir John Byron, knt. and had issue by her, Charles, Thomas, and Robert; Sir Thomas died, and was succeeded in the manor by his eldest son

Charles, who became baron Lucas, upon the death of John lord Lucas, in 1671, according to the limitation; having no feat, he converted a messuage in this parish, called the Tenter-house and Lady-yard, into a convenient, though not a handsome habitation, and built brick walls round the gardens. His lordship married Penelope, youngest daughter of Francis Leke, earl of Scarfsdale, by whom he had issue ——— and Penelope, which latter on the 17th of July, 1690, was married to Isaac Selfe of Benacre, in Wiltshire, Esq. and died February 10, 1701, aged thirty-eight, after having had seven children, was buried in this church.

Her

Her father Charles lord Lucas, died in the year 1688, without issue male; upon which his title came to his brother Robert, who having been bred up to arms, was made lieutenant of the tower of London, upon king James's abdication; being esteemed a man of honor, and a lover of his country, and died without issue January 31, 1704-5. He never was possessed of this manor, for Penelope, lady Lucas, relict of Charles lord Lucas, who had an estate in it for life, enjoyed it till her decease.

A moiety of this manor being settled upon her daughter Mrs. Selfe, and her heirs for ever; the manor and estate were sold soon after Mrs. Selfe's death, and purchased towards the end of the year 1701 by

Samuel Rawstorn of London, Esq. who resided here, and died February 17, 1720, was buried in the family vault at St. Lawrence Jewry, London. By his first wife, Sarah, daughter of Thomas Papillon of Acris in Kent, Esq. he had issue; 1, Jane, married to the Rev. Edward Arrowsmith, M. A. rector of St. Olave Hartstreet, London. 2, Sarah, wife of the Rev. Thomas Bullock, D. D. dean of Norwich. 3, Elizabeth, wife of the Rev. James Kelner, M. A. one of his majesty's chaplains in ordinary, rector of Lexden, and vicar of Tolleshunt Darcy. 4, Susannah, widow and relict of John Eldred of Oliver's in Stanway, Esq. 5, Hester, married to the Rev. William Bree, M. A. rector of Mark's-Tey, and Tendring in this county. 6, Jerom,

ner

her of Canterbury, Esq. but died without children:
And 7, Thomas.

Mrs. Sarah Rawstorn above-mentioned, having an estate in this manor for life, enjoyed it till her decease, which happened January 13, 1739-40, upon which it descended to her son

Thomas Rawstorn, Esq. who married Anne, daughter of John Fowler, Esq. one of the commissioners of the navy, by whom he had issue two daughters, Anne, and Sarah, of which last child she died in childbed, November 28, 1746. A few years after he married the daughter of the Rev. Mr. Lisle, but had no issue; he died about the year 1756; his daughter Sarah died in 1761; and Mrs. Rawstorn about the year 1780; his having no issue male, his estate and manor is now in the possession of his only surviving daughter,

Miss Anne Rawstorn.

Lexden-lodge is the manor-house.

The lord of this manor did anciently owe suit and service at the law-hundred court of this town, and was amerced when he did not perform that service.

Circumstances are so altered from what they originally were, when Lexden was only a berewite to Stanway manor; that the lord of Stanway-hall manor doth at present owe to this, fine, suit of court, and a pair of gilt spurs, or a yearly rent of 6d.

Belonging

Belonging to the lord of this manor there was anciently a very fine park in this parish, the greatest part of which lay on the north side of the river, opposite to the Shepen; how far it extended towards the east, or Bergholt road, appears from hence, that the five acres of land in Lexden, belonging to the free-school in this town, were adjoining to the park pales.

There is another manor in this parish, called Mot's, from a family of that name; it appears to have been about a hundred years in the Sayer's family, but it is hardly known to be a manor at present.

The abbey of Waltham Holy-cross had some lands in this parish, near Sheet-street, on account of which, the abbot was obliged to repair part of New-bridge; after the dissolution of the monastries, they came into the Sayer family, by grant or purchase.

There was also some lands in this parish belonging to Heynes's and Barwick's chantries, which were purchased by the bailiffs and commonalty at the suppression, and sold them soon after to Thomas Rich of this parish. Some of those lands are copyhold, and known by the name of Lower Butler's, containing twelve acres.

On the south side of the London road, just at the top of Lexden-hill, and almost opposite to Horsee or Stone-crouch-lane, anciently stood a famous cross, built of brick or stone, part of the pedestal of which has been seen within the memory of man.

Another

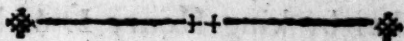
Another, named Lamb's-crofs in this parifh, flood on the Aldham road, at the four ways, of which one leads down to New-bridge.

Pedder's-crofs flood on the heath, at the turning leading to Gofbeck's.

On Lexden-heath, partly in this parifh, and partly in that of Stanway, there were very confiderable works and entrenchments, which evidently appears to be remains of the CASTRA, CASTELLA, and PRÆSIDIA, mentioned by Tacitus, that were placed about the ancient COLONIA CAMULODUNUM. From Lexden-heath they extend eaft, a good way towards Colchefter, what is called Hollow-lane, adjoining to the commons, being part of them; and thence they keep to the London road, and have fome parts corresponding on the north fide of the river; they crofs again the fame London road at the extremity of the heath, on the weft, and thence proceed northerly to the place called king Coel's Kitchen, which was part of them; they feem to have been continued from thence towards the river, but the culture of the land hath almoft defaced them in many places.

In the year 1722, they were furveyed and meafured by the Rev. Mr. Thomas Lufkin, and Payler Smith, Efq. By a preambulation taken of the liberties of this town in 1563, it appears, that thefe entrenchments went then under the name of Grynes-ditch.

Lexden church stands on the south side of London road, about the middle of the village; it is of one pace, as is also the chancel, and both are tiled; but on the north side of the church, there is a little isle or chapel, on the top of which stands a clock; at the west end is a spire shingled, containing one bell. This church is a rectory, and hath been always appendant to the manor, though several presentations have been made by other persons than the lords, as may be seen in Mr. Newcourt.



Mile-end

CLAIMS the next place to Lexden, as being the most considerable of the three parishes within the liberties of Colchester, that remain to be taken into consideration. The ground of the name, is the same as of Mile-end in Stepney parish; in some ancient records it is written Miland, and la Mylande, but seems to be owing to the ignorance of the times.

On the west, this parish is bounded by Lexden; on the north, by Great Horksley, Boxstead and Langham; on the east, by part of Ardleigh, of St. Botolph's, St. James's, and Greenstead; and on the south, by part of St. Botolph's, St. James's, All-Saints, St. Nicholas's, St. Martin's, and St. Peter's.

It is of large extent, especially from north-east to south-west, and contains a great quantity of ground.

The most considerable estate in this parish, is that which is known by the name of Mile-end-heath, and the Severals; but anciently was called Kingwood and Kingwood-heath, because it anciently belonged to the king; a great part of it was a wood, but is now converted into arable land, which is properly the Severals; that is, separate, and not common ground; and the rest a heath, as it is now.

It was originally part of the royal forest, and of the king's demesnes, and was granted to the burgesses of Colchester, either by king Henry I. or king Stephen, for a rent or fee-farm of 40s. a year; but about the year 1168, it came into the hands of king Henry II. after that, it was for some time granted to the keeper of Colchester castle. Thus it continued in the crown till March 4, 1534-5, when king Henry VIII. granted it again to the bailiffs and commonalty of the town of Colchester, for the sum of 100l. paid into the Hanaper, with all and every the appurtenances, profits and advantages whatever, with liberty to cut down, and carry away all manner of trees, wood, and underwood, whenever they please, on paying the yearly rent of 1d. into the Exchequer, with power and liberty to divide, inclose, and hold them as their own proper land, and part of the liberty of the town of Colchester, without impeachment or molestation from the king, his heirs or successors. This grant was confirmed by act of parliament.

About the year 1576, queen Elizabeth sent her letters to the magistrates of this town, requesting, but in effect,

effect commanding them, to lease Kingswood-heath to Sir Thomas Henneage, which they accordingly did for sixty years; they have since been leased to Thomas Lucas, gent. Daniel de Foe, they were afterwards assigned to Walter Bernard, Esq. alderman of London, afterwards to his brother, the Rev. John Bernard, of Moreton in this county; this lease expires August 6, 1821, when it again comes into the hands of the mayor and commonalty. This estate consists of near 800 acres of rich pasture and arable lands, divided into different farms, and let at the yearly rent of 510l. and upwards; also a right of the soil and commonage on upwards of 200 acres of land; likewise a mortgage of 2600l. and upwards, on several other estates belonging to the corporation of Colchester, bearing an interest of four per cent. per annum.

As it is the wish of the editor of this work to insert whatever is probable of giving satisfaction to a generous public, he here intends inserting the particulars of those premises, called the Severals; by which means the free burgeses of this borough will be enabled to know their JUST RIGHTS, before they are *totally* swallowed up.

Copy of the Particulars of the Premises, held by the several Tenants, in 1767.

A FARM, consisting of a messuage, a cottage, a barn, stable, and other convenient outhouses, all in good repair, and several pieces or parcels of pasture,

arable and wood land; now let on lease for a term of twenty-one years to come from Michaelmas 1766, at the yearly rent of 59l. 10s. for the first four years, and for the remaining seventeen years at 61l. 8s.—Tenant Samuel Radkin.

N. B. The tenant is to maintain, keep and leave the premises in good repair, (accidents by extraordinary winds and fire excepted) and the hedges, ditches, fences, gates, stiles, barns, pales, posts and rails in good repair; (being allowed rough timber for such gates, &c.) to fetch materials gratis; and, if required, to sign a petition to parliament for inclosing the heath.

A farm, consisting of a messuage, barn, stable, brick kiln, and other outhouses in good repair, together with several parcels of arable and pasture land; let on lease for twenty-one years, from Michaelmas 1767, at the yearly rent of 41l.—Tenant Chapman Jacobs.

The tenant to keep every thing at his own cost and charges; and, if required, to sign a petition as above.

A farm, consisting of a messuage, two barns, stables, and other convenient outhouses, and pasture and other lands; let on lease for twenty-one years, from Michaelmas 1747, at the yearly rent of 88l.—Tenant Richard Holden.

The tenant to amend, maintain and keep all the hedges, ditches and fences at his own expence; to find straw for thatching, and to fetch all materials gratis.

A farm,

A farm, consisting of a messuage, barn, stable, cart-lodge and granary, with other outhouses in good repair, and arable land; the said premises are in the occupation of James Tiffin, who took the remainder of a term of sixteen years, from Michaelmas 1753, granted to Wincole, afterwards assigned to May, but not yet assigned to the said James Tiffin, at the yearly rent of 56l.

A farm, consisting of a messuage, a very large barn, stables and outhouses in good repair, with several parcels of arable and pasture lands; let on an agreement for a new lease of twenty-one years, from Michaelmas 1767, at the yearly rent of 105l.—Tenant John Moore.

The tenant to maintain and keep all the thatching and daubing in good repair, and also the gates, &c. being allowed rough timber; to fetch materials for repairs gratis, and to sign a petition for inclosing the heath, if required.

A farm, consisting of a messuage, a cottage, two barns, stables and outhouses in good repair, and arable and pasture lands; let on lease for a term of twenty-one years from Michaelmas 1766, at the rent of 38l. 10s. for the first four years, and for the remaining seventeen years at 70l. 4s.—Tenant John Beeky.

The tenant to keep and leave all the thatching in good and tenantable repair, and maintain and keep all the premises, and the gates, pumps, &c. in good repair, being allowed rough timber at the stubb, laths, tiles, bricks,

bricks, lime and nails; to fetch all materials gratis; and, if required, to sign a petition for inclosing the heath.

A good brick house and a cottage, with a barn, stables and outhouses in good repair; and also arable and pasture lands; let on lease for twenty-one years, from Michaelmas 1761, at the yearly rent of 55l.—

Tenant John Parker.

The tenant to maintain, keep and leave all the hedges, ditches, mounds, fences, gates, stiles, pales, posts and rails in good and tenantable repair, being allowed rough timber by the landlord, to keep the barn, park and floor in the same good repair; to do all the thatching and daubing at his own expence; and likewise, if required, to sign a petition to parliament for inclosing.

A parcel of arable land, let at the yearly rent of 16l.—Tenant John Garrard.

The tenant to maintain, keep and leave the hedges, ditches, mounds, fences, gates and stiles in good and tenantable repair, and, if required, sign a petition before mentioned.

A parcel of arable land, let upon lease for twenty-one years, from Michaelmas 1767, under the same covenants as the others, at the rent of 20l.—Tenant Robert Buchannan.

A messuage

A messuage called, and known by the name of the Spread Eagle, with exceeding good stables, and about half an acre of garden ground, let at the yearly rent of 5l. 5s.—Tenant John Kendall.

A messuage with about an acre of land, and a hovel thereupon, (tenant to pay the land-tax) at the rent of 3l. a year: Held by the parishioners of Mile-end.

A messuage with a piece or parcel of land; also two pieces or parcels of land late in the occupation of Jo. Johnson, at the rent of 2l. a year.—Tenant Mary Edwards.

A windmill, and a piece of land inclosed from the waste, let at 13s. 4d. a year, to Robert Lay.

A messuage and croft of land inclosed from the waste, let at 6s. 8d. a year, to William Smythies.

A piece of land inclosed from the waste, (late Goodall's) at 5s. a year, to William Posford.

A cottage; and a small piece of land inclosed from the waste, at 13s. 4d. to William Gibbon.

A barn, and a piece of land likewise inclosed, (late Hogg's) at 2s. to Byam Hewes.

A wood or grove, containing by admeasurement twelve acres, the underwood now about eight years growth, and in which there is standing several timber trees; at present in hand,

The annual outgoings from which are as follows, viz.

Tythe for the whole estate, during the life of the present rector of Mile-end, who is upwards of 70 years of age; and at his decease to sink into the estate; all the tenants (John Parker excepted) having covenanted to pay the same themselves - - - - -	} l. s. d.
	30 0 0

Poor's-rate for the whole estate, communibus annis - - - - -	} 50 0 0
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Land-tax at 3s. in the pound for the whole estate, (the Spread Eagle and John Parker's house excepted) - - -	} 46 16 0
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Land-tax for Parker's - - - - -	0 18 0
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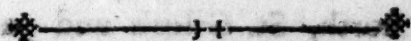
Reserved rent to the corporation of 120l. for which land-tax is always to be allowed - - - - -	} 102 0 0
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£. 229 14 0

Besides this estate of Kingwood and Kingwood-heath, there is within this parish, the manor of Mile-end and Abbot's-hall, so called because it formerly belonged to the abbot and monks of St. Osyth in this county; and for which they owed suit at the law-hundred courts of this town. Upon the surrender of their house July 28, 1539, king Henry granted the same year this manor, with Mile-end-hall, to Thomas Cromwell,

well, afterwards earl of Essex; they reverted to the crown upon his attainder, which happened the year following; king Henry, by gift, or otherwise, passed them to Vere earl of Oxford, but did not remain long in that family; they have since passed several others, and have been for near fifty years since, and are now in the possession of lord Hardwick, in whose gift the rectory of this church is in.

The church is of one pace with the chancel, and very small; at the west end there is a little wooden turret, containing one bell.



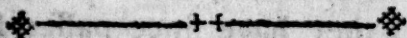
Greenstead.

THIS is the third of the out parishes, within the liberties of Colchester; on the west it is bounded by part of St. Botolph's, St. James's, the Hythe, and St. Giles's; on the south, partly by Wivenhoe and Elmstead; on the east, by part of this latter, and of Ardleigh; and on the north, by part of St. Botolph's and St. James's.

The name of it seems to be derived from the nature of the place, namely, a green pasture, or uncultivated place.

This manor, or at least three parts of it, were in the hands of Eudo Dapifer; it has since passed through several families, and is now in the Hardwick family.

This church is of one pace with the chancel; and both are tiled; at the west end stands a square tower of brick, containing one bell.



Bere-church, or West Doniland,

IS the last of the four out parishes; its name **BERE**-church, denotes a church in the corn-fields; and it is called **WEST** Doniland, on account of its situation with regard to East Doniland; it hath on the south, Abberton, and Layer-de-la-Hay; on the west, Stanway; on the north, St. Giles's and part of St. Botolph's; and on the east, part of St. Giles's and East Doniland.

This parish is within the manor of West Doniland, and Monk-wick was always an appendage to this manor.

In 1543 this manor belonged to John Dudley, viscount Lisle, and earl of Warwick, afterwards the great duke of Northumberland, who gave it in the Jobson family, who lie buried in St. Giles's church.

Bere-church-hall is another manor in this parish, it was part of the demesnes of St. John's abbey, but the monks of that house alienated it to Sir Thomas Audley, lord chancellor of England, with the manor of Gosbeck in Stanway; and it now belongs to Sir Rob. Smyth, bart, one of the aldermen and representatives of the borough of Colchester.

Account of dissolved Monasteries, and dissolved Chapels.

St. John's Abbey.

THIS noble and stately monastery was founded by Eudo Dapifer, Steward to William the Conqueror; he was a person of great eminence in his time. His father, Hubert de Rie, was a servant and favorite of that prince, who sent him embassador in England, with a grand retinue to Edward the Confessor, then lying on his death bed; and he managed with so much dexterity, that Edward appointed William to succeed him in the English throne, for which good service, Hubert had the promise of the office of steward of William's household, as soon as he should be possessed of the crown; but after his conquest, being apprehensive of some commotions in Normandy, he sent back hither Hubert, with his three eldest sons, to keep all things quiet there, being persons in whom he could thoroughly confide. Eudo, the fourth son, remained in England, in king William's service, who gave him very large possessions; he was very instrumental in raising William II. to the throne; for, waiting upon the Conqueror in Normandy, when he lay on his death bed, he advised the young prince, not to neglect so fair an opportunity; whereupon they two passed into England, and persuaded the keeper of the royal treasury,

fury, then at Winchester, to deliver the keys of it to them. Next Eudo posted to Dover, Poveney, Hastings, and other castles along the sea-coast; and made the keepers of them swear not to deliver them up to any one but whom he should appoint; pretending, that the king designed to make a considerable stay in Normandy, and would have good assurance of the safety of his castles, from himself, his steward. Having secured these important points, he discovers the king's death; and thus was William Rufus, by his means and contrivance, quietly placed on the English throne; for which important service, he became a great favorite of that king, and very considerable throughout the nation. And therefore the ancient and considerable town of Colchester having suffered great oppressions under the late troublesome and arbitrary reign of William the Conqueror, desired to have Eudo for their governor, and to put themselves under his protection. As soon as all things were settled, he came down thither, and making a proper enquiry into grievances, eased the oppressed, restrained the insolent, and at first pleased all. Finding, that the lands of the condemned and outlawed lay uncultivated; and, notwithstanding, the taxes imposed upon the town were exacted with rigour, which was a great burden, he obtained a grant of these lands, and caused them to be cultivated as before, by which means the inhabitants were much eased. This agreeable town he made the place of his residence; and, as is supposed, built the castle, moot-hall, and the ancient house opposite to it, (newly rebuilt) on which is the date 1090. He resolved also to provide
 for

for the wealth of his soul, according to the superstitious notion of those times, namely, by founding a monastery: for that purpose, he pitched upon a pleasant eminence on the south side of the town, where one Siric, a priest, had a little dwelling, near which stood a wooden church, dedicated to St. John the evangelist, famed for miracles; for, in dark nights, heavenly lights were often seen there, (as is pretended) and voices praising God heard, when no one was within. It also happened, that a certain man, who by the king's command was kept in irons, and maintained by the citizens, being there present among many others on the feast of St. John, whilst mass was saying, the bolt of his fetters flew off as far as the fourth or fifth person that stood by, and the fetters breaking with a noise, the man was left loose. Upon this report, and in consideration of the pleasantness of the place, Eudo resolved to build a monastery there: he communicated his design to Maurice bishop of London, who applauded it, and promised his assistance. Accordingly, on the 29th of August, 1096, the ground was marked out, in the bishop's presence, and the workmen were set to level and prepare the place; the year following, after Easter, Eudo himself laid the first stone. Whilst the building was going on, the founder desired his friend and acquaintance, Gundulf bishop of Rochester, a man famous for his piety, to send him some monks, to live according to their regular institution in his new monastery. Two at first were sent, and Eudo allowed each of them a stipend; but they being too dainty, found fault with their keeping, and returned home. In their place

place two others were sent, one of whom named Radulf, was a pious and industrious man: he often pressed Eudo to settle revenues upon his foundation; alleging, that it was unfit for monks to live like prebendaries, and to depend upon laymen for their maintenance: Eudo was not then well able to comply with his demand, as being in disgrace with king Henry I. for having too warmly espoused his elder brother Robert Courthoise. However, being perpetually teized by the two monks, he settled certain revenues upon them; but the lands lying at too great a distance, and the profits not answering the charge of collecting, the two monks quitted again the place after a great deal of jangling and uneasiness on both sides; so that Eudo began to repent, and to wish he had never thought of his monastery. But meeting with Stephen, abbot of York, a notable and worthy man, he committed to him the whole care of the edifice.

Stephen goes back to York, and chusing out of his own monastery such monks as he thought fittest, and in number twelve, according to the number of the apostles, besides one to govern them under the name of Provost or Prior, and to be in process of time ordained abbot; he sent them to Colchester. These thirteen persons were joyfully received by Eudo, and after their arrival, the building began to be carried on with more vigour than usual, under the direction of William, a priest, nephew to Eudo, who spared neither care nor money. In the mean time, the monks lived according to the strictness of their order, serving God
regularly

regularly in the church, exercising hospitality, &c. so that their good example prevailing, many of the neighbours took the habit of religion. A few years after, Hugh, one of the thirteen, was chosen abbot, being a man of singular piety, but not of so much worldly sagacity; he was consecrated by Maurice bishop of London, about the year 1104. The offices and the habitations of the monks, being on the north side of the church towards the town, and on that account too public and noisy, the abbot resolved to remove them on the south side, and accordingly did. For that purpose, the little rising, or hill, which stood before the church was taken down and brought behind it, to level the church-yard. Some people claiming part of the soil on which the church was erected, Eudo fully satisfied their demand. It was consecrated the 10th of January, in a very solemn manner; at which time it was plentifully endowed by the munificent founder, and other devout persons, as we shall shew by and by. Their grants were offered upon the altar. The monks who came from York, were then either returned home or dead, except three, namely, the aforesaid abbot Hugh, and one Walter, and Osmund senior; yet the number of monks was increased to above twenty, all admitted into the order there, and devoutly serving God. But Hugh the abbot, having some disputes with Eudo, and fearing lest the abbey should suffer on that account, he resigned his dignity into the king's hands, and went back to York.

As for Eudo, when he found his end approaching, he bequeathed, (with king Henry's consent, and in his presence) to his new monastery the manor of Brightlingsea, and a hundred pounds in money; likewise his gold ring with a topaz; a standing cup with cover adorned with plates of gold; together with his horse and mule. He died at the castle of Preaux in Normandy, and according to his desire was brought to England, and buried in his monastery of St. John's, February 28, 1120.

His wife was Rohaise, daughter of Richard, son of Gilbert earl of Eu, by Rohaise his wife sister to Walter Giffard earl of Buckingham: they had only one daughter, Margaret, which was married to William de Mandeville; and their son and heir, Geoffrey de Mandeville, was steward of Normandy, and advanced by king Stephen to the title of earl of Essex.

This abbey, dedicated to the honor of Christ and St. John the baptist, was founded, as hath been already mentioned, for monks of the benedictine order. The number of them at first was twenty, which was not increased, there being the same number at the dissolution: but it entertained great numbers of officers and servants, and multitudes of travellers and poor, who daily resorted thither; monasteries serving anciently for inns as well as hospitals.

The munificent founder endowed this abbey with many estates, the whole of which may be seen in the town records.

At

At the time of the dissolution of the monasteries, this noble abbey, with its large revenues, was valued at 523l.

The abbot church stood on the south side of St. Giles's, and south-east of the gate-way; it had a large tower in the middle, adorned with several spires; and at the west end, there were likewise some turrets; there is now only the gate-way of this famous abbey standing, and the garden walls, which inclose thirteen acres of ground.

The abbot was a mitred abbot; that is, one of those twenty-eight in this kingdom who had the honor of wearing a mitre, and sitting in the upper house in parliament; and he was distinguished by the high titles of, *By the Grace of God*; and *By divine permission*. The abbot itself was invested with very great privileges: for it had the full jurisdiction in determining causes in all the lands adjoining to the monastery; and the same honor, liberty and laws, as the church of St. Peter at Westminster; finally, this abbey had the privilege of sanctuary.

St. Botolph's Priory.

THE next most considerable religious foundation in this town, was the priory of St. Botolph, dedicated to St. Botolph and St. Julian; it was founded about the beginning of the twelfth century for canons regular at St. Augustine, by a monk named Ey-

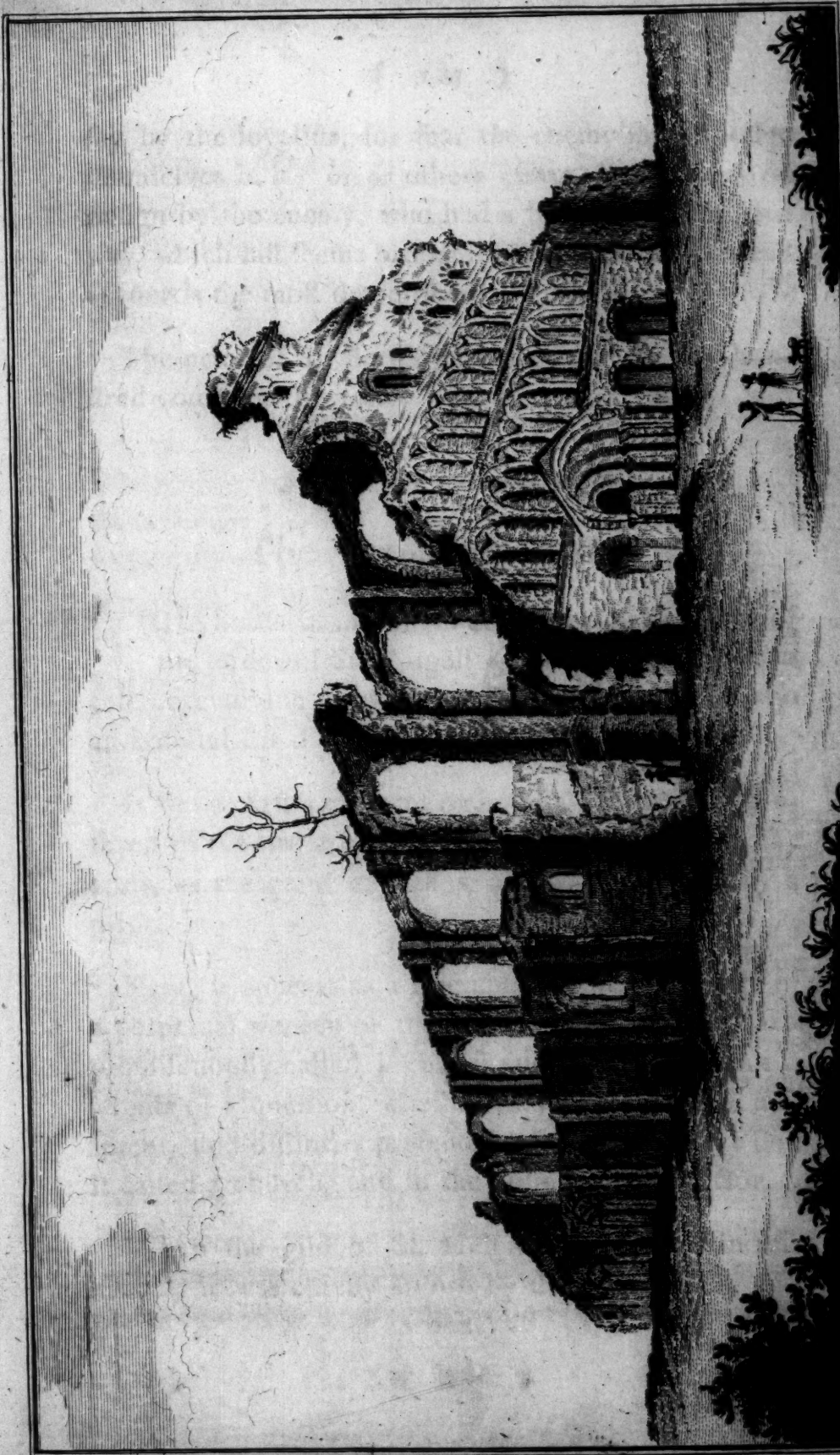
nulph, or Ernulph, who was also the first prior. These canons were brought into this kingdom about the year 1109.

It doth not appear that Eynulph settled on his new foundation any lands or possessions, except perhaps the site and gardens of the priory; but it soon met with benefactors, though its revenues never became very ample.

The priory stood on the south side of the church, but there are not any remains of it at this time.

The church was noble and magnificent, and built in an elegant manner and a good taste, with fine semi-circular arches duly proportioned, and a double row of them in the body, one above the other, with imposts and pilasters between, and other suitable ornaments. How beautiful the western front was, will better appear from the representation given of it here. The south-west and north-west corners were adorned with two stately towers, of which that at the north-west was standing within the memory of man.

'Till our unhappy civil wars, this church was looked upon as the chief in the town, where the corporation resorted in their formalities on Sundays, and other public occasions to hear the general preacher; and the great bell there, was that which was rung every morning and evening at four and eight o'clock. In the time of the siege, this church suffered with most of our public edifices, being partly battered down as some say



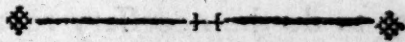
The North West View of St. Botolph's Priory Church

W. B. 1841



say by the loyalists, for fear the enemy should lodge themselves in it; or as others affirm, it was done on design by the enemy, who had a battery levelled that way, which last seems probable, because the south-east corner is the most demolished.

The prior of St. Botolph owed suit at the law-hundred courts of this town.



The Crouched Friars.

THIS house was a convent for **CROUCHED** friars, of the order of St. Augustine, who were bound to celebrate divine service in the chapel here, and also an hospital for the reception of poor people.

It was at first a convent or hospital, for regular brethren of the order of St. Augustine, marked with the cross, as the grant expresses, and was governed by a prior.

Next, it appears as a free chapel, under the care of a perpetual warden or rector; though it is even then promiscuously called a chapel and an hospital; but it admits of a question, whether they were not then different, and distinctly presented to; afterwards we find it called a church, and in the possession of a rector.

When the gild of St. Helen was founded in this chapel, it was chiefly known by the name of the gild

of St. Helen; and both chapel and hospital became jointly in the gift of the guardians of that gild.

Towards the end of king Richard the IInd's reign, this chapel and hospital were so much decayed and neglected for want of a warden, and by reason of the smallness of the revenues, that divine service could not be performed, nor the poor maintained as usual; in order therefore to increase the revenues, and to get money sufficient to do the necessary repairs about the chapel and hospital, an indulgence was obtained in 1401, or 1402.

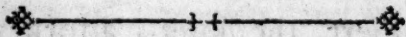
In 1407 this chapel and hospital obtained a great accession of strength and riches, by becoming the seat of the gild of St. Helen; it was founded by Richard Fodryngrey, clerk, Thomas Godston, Thomas Fraunceys, John Forde, and John Sumpter of Colchester, under the name of the fraternity and gild of St. Helen in the chapel of the Holy-crofs of Colchester; and the brethren and sisters of this gild were impowered by the patent, to choose every year, if they thought fit, one or two guardians; to found a chantry of five chaplains in the said chapel; and to maintain thirteen poor men to pray for the king, and the brethren and sisters of the gild. The chantries of Thomas Godston, Thomas Fraunceys, and Edmund Haverland, entered afterwards into this gild.

Upon that occasion, the crouched friers seem to have been turned out of this house, till about the beginning of king Henry the VIIth's reign, when one Roger Church,

Churche, an active man, brought them in again; and producing some papal bulls, and other evidences, whereby it appeared, that this house was originally founded for friers of that order, they were reinstated therein through the interest of John earl of Oxford, and James Hubert, the king's attorney, who were their friends; and then the bailiff and commonalty restored to them the two messuages, and four acres of land; and Roger Churche become their prior; but he found means to get possession of the lands, which had been appointed by Thomas Godston, for the support of a chantry founded by him in the church of the Holy-crofs, upon granting a pension to Thomas Mooteham, the chantry priest, and afterwards those lands were appropriated to this hospital by the masters of St. Helen's gild.

This house and church of the Crouched Friers, stood in the suburbs, on the south-west side of the town, and on the south side of the London road. The church or chapel was pulled down many years ago; the house was converted into a seat of the Stephens's, and afterwards of Sir Harbottle Grimston; but it seems to have been partly new built, there appearing in it no signs of antiquity, except a few windows on the east side. It was much damaged during the siege, and never became fit since for a gentleman's residence. About the beginning of this century, it was hired by the work-house corporation, and converted into a general work-house for the whole town, but when they removed into another in St. James's parish, this was let into tenements

ments to the poorer sort of people, which bringing little or no profits to Mr. Daniell, the owner, he caused it to be taken down, and it is now a garden ground belonging to James Blatch, Esq.



The Grey Friars.

THE monastery of the Grey Friars stood within the north-east corner of the walls, just by East-gate, and almost opposite to St. James's church; it was founded in the year 1309, by Robert baron Fitz-walter, lord of the manor of Lexden; who, in 1325 entered himself into this order and house, as a religious votary, in order to spend here the remainder of his days; but short it was, for he died the same year. As this order pretends, according to their founder's rule, not to possess or make any thing their own; but to maintain themselves partly by the labour of their hands, and partly with such alms, in meat, drink, and the like, as they shall receive by begging; but not to take money upon any account, either by themselves or a third person; their lands and possessions will therefore make but a very small figure, their original foundation containing only an acre of ground; but king Edward II. granted them a void place of five acres to enlarge their mansion.

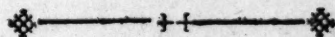
The same king granted also, in trust for them, to John de Morevillere and Theophania his wife, the manor of Martaingneville in the county of Ponthieu,

in

in Picardy. In 1422, John Pod, merchant, gave them eight acres and an half of land near the head of their conduit:

King Edward IV. 1479 granted them fifty-two loads of underwood out of Kingwood, upon condition they should pray for the good estate of him and his queen, while they lived; and, after their decease, for their souls, and for the soul of Richard late duke of York; and should keep their several obits yearly.

After the dissolution of the monasteries, this house did not long continue in the king's hands; for Henry VIII. granted it, July 8, 1544, for the sum of 430l. 10s. to Francis Jobson, Esq. and Elizabeth his wife, and to Andrew Dudley, Robert Hennage, and Richard Duke, Esqrs. under the title of the house of the late Friars-minors, vulgarly called the Grey Friars in Colchester, with those houses and edifices, called the Old Hall, the Fennery, and Sir Thomas Tirrell's lodgings, the bakehouse, the brewhouse, two gardens, and a piece of land, containing by estimation four acres; the whole valued at 25s. 8d. to be held in free socage by fealty, and not *in capite*, at the yearly rent of 2s. 7d.



St. Anne's Chapel.

THIS chapel, dedicated to St. Anne, the mother of the Virgin Mary, stood on a rising ground in St. James's parish, beyond the river, and on the south side

side of the great roads leading from this town to Harwich.

When, and by whom it was founded, appears nowhere upon record, but it was in being in the year 1406; nay, very probably, in the reign of king Hen. III. for in an allocation in the Exchequer during that period, there is an allowance of 15s. made 2½d. to the hermit in St. James's parish. Now from some presentments made at the law-hundred courts in this town, we learn, it was an hermitage, and had a well near it called Holy-well, which serve to prove that it was the same mentioned in that allocation; moreover, there is reason to conclude, that it was an appendage to St. Botolph's, because the guardians of this chapel used to pay 6s. 8d. to the prior of that house, which sum was granted, among the rest of its revenues, to Sir Thomas Audeley.

We find it mentioned in king Henry the VIIIth's reign as a gild and fraternity of St. Anne; and October 1579, the sheriff of Essex seized into the queen's hands, Windmill-field in St. James's parish, late parcel of St. Anne's gild, within the burgh of Colchester. Gallows-field belonged also thereto.

At a law-hundred court in 1515, the lands adjoining, and belonging to this chapel, were made whole-year ground. The remains of this chapel was afterwards converted into a barn.

St. Helen's Chapel,

STOOD in St. Nicholas's parish, in a lane called from it, St. Helen's, and vulgarly called Tenant's lane, but its ancient name was Maidenburgh-street. This chapel was dedicated to St. Helen, the mother of Constantine the Great. It was a place of great antiquity, but rebuilt in 1076 by Eudo, the founder of St. John's abbey, who gave it to that monastery with fourteen acres of land belonging to the same; in consideration of which, and of the tithes of the castle's demesnes, the abbot was obliged to find a chaplain to officiate every other day of the week in this chapel; but in the eighteenth of king Edward I. this service was found to be wholly neglected, and the chapel in a ruinous condition; and for fear it should, in process of time, be applied to profane uses, John de Colchester, rector of Tendring, founded in it a chantry, in 1321. Richolda de Cosford's chantry was also founded in this chapel.

Upon the suppression of the chantries, this chapel, with its revenues, came by the grant of king Henry VIII. 1539, into the hands of the bailiffs and commonalty, who sold it several times, but lastly to the people called Quakers, who have turned it into a silent meeting-house.

The Chantries in Colchester.

A CHANTRY, was a foundation or endowment in some church, chapel, or part of a church for one or more priests to CHANT or sing mass for the soul of the founder or other particular persons. There were ten such in this town, viz.

1 John de Colchester's chantry in St. Helen's chapel.

2 Cosford's chantry in the same chapel.

3 Joseph Elianore's chantry, in the chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr, within the church of St. Mary at the Walls.

4 The chantry of the Holy-crofs.

5 Thomas Frauncey's chantry.

6 Edmund Haverland's chantry, in the church of the Crouched Friars.

7 Thomas Godston's chantry, in the chapel of the same.

8 Richard Heynes's chantry, in the church of St. Peter.

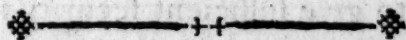
9 Peter Barwick's chantry, in the church of St. Leonard.

10 Edmund Harmanfon's chantry, in the same.

By examining various accounts, it appears, that *most* of the lands in the Borough-fields, and on each side of the London road, as far as the top of Lexden-hill belonged to the chantries of this town.

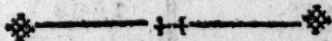
Obits

Obits or masses were yearly celebrated on the day of any particular person's death, who left some appointment for that use. They owed their rise to the groundless notion of praying for departed souls. In most religious houses, there was a book, called the Obitual or Martyrology, wherein they entered the names of their benefactors, or of persons who had left them legacies to observe yearly their obit or anniversary.



Gifts & Benefactions to the Corporation, and the several Parishes.

AS the following gifts, &c. may be of general use, and to prevent their being enveloped, which we have too much reason to believe many have been, we shall choose to deliver as much as possible, the very words of the original wills, or other grants, on purpose to render the account more authentic.



1. Sir Thomas White's Gift.

SIR Thomas White, knt. lord mayor and alderman of London, did, in the year 1566, deliver and pay unto the mayor or burgessees and commonalty of Bristol, 2000l. to the intent that they should therewith purchase to themselves and successors, messuages, lands, &c. then of the clear yearly value of 120l. and more,

to continue for ever the equal benefit and advancement of twenty-four cities and large towns in England, in the following manner. Namely, that the yearly sum of 104l. should be paid, on St. Bartholomew's-day, at Merchant-Taylor's-Hall in London, to the mayor or bailiffs of each of those respective cities, &c. successively: to be lent by each commonalty at 25l. a-piece, to four of their poor young freemen, of honest fame, for ten years, without paying any interest. Those persons to give sufficient security for the repayment of the said 25l. at the expiration of the ten years, Clothiers to be preferred to all others. The odd 4l. was to be employed by the respective mayors, &c. of each city and town, as they thought good for their pains. The first payments were made in the following order. After Bristol,

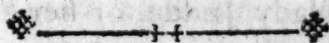
In the year

1577 to York.
 1578 Canterbury.
 1579 Reading.
 1580 the Merchant-Taylors.
 1581 Gloucester.
 1582 Worcester.
 1583 Exeter.
 1584 Salisbury.
 1585 Worcester.
 1586 Norwich.
 1587 Southampton.

In the year

1588 to Lincoln.
 1589 Winchester.
 1590 Oxford.
 1591 Hereford.
 1592 Cambridge.
 1593 Shrewsbury.
 1594 Lynn.
 1595 Bath.
 1596 Derby.
 1597 Ipswich.
 1598 Colchester.
 1599 Newcastle.

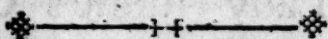
And the payments have been made ever since in the same order.



2. Lady Judde's Gift.

TH E worshipful dame, Mary Judde of Markeshall, in this county, widow; for the great love, favor and affection which she bore under the town of Colchester, being the place of her nativity, and to the people therein inhabiting; did, by indenture, bearing date 13 February 33 Elizabeth, [1590-1,] give to the bailiffs and commonalty of Colchester, One hundred pounds, as a stock to buy and provide from time to time wool, yarn, flax, and such other merchandize and things as the season should require; for the setting on work such poor persons, inhabiting within the said town and liberties of the same, as should be able to work and labour; the same persons receiving for their work as they should be agreed withal; and that the profit, commodity and benefit which should grow and accrue by reason of the employment of the said stock of One hundred pounds as aforesaid, should be from time to time hereafter given, disposed and delivered, by the bailiffs and commonalty and their successors, to such of the poor people inhabitants within the said town and liberties thereof, as are impotent and unable to work or labour, according to the good discretion of the said bailiffs and aldermen for the time being. But if the said sum of One hundred pounds did at any time remain unoccupied, or not employed to the uses before remembered, by the space of twelve whole months together; then the bailiffs and commonalty were to re-
pay

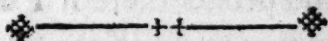
pay it to the said lady Judde, or her executors, within three months next after demand thereof.



3. Mr. Hunwicke's Gift.

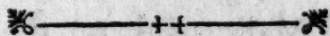
JOHN Hunwicke, alderman of Colchester, did, by his last will, dated 24th November, 1593, devise for ever to the poor, lame, and impotent persons inhabiting and dwelling within the town of Colchester and the precincts thereof, the sum of Three hundred pounds, to be paid by his executors to the bailiffs and commonalty of Colchester; and the use and profit of the same, to be distributed by these for four years together, [viz. 30l. at 10 per cent, as it was then] amongst the poor, lame and impotent persons of Colchester as aforesaid, without any manner of affection. Every fifth year, the interest arising that year to be paid thus, 10l. to the bailiffs and portmen of Ipswich; 10l. to the mayor of Sudbury; and 10l. to the bailiffs of Maldon, for their poor: and on the said fifth year, the bailiffs and commonalty of Colchester to meet the bailiffs and commonalty of Ipswich, on the 15th of September, and give account to them of the profit and distribution of the money for the four years foregoing. One time the magistrates of Ipswich to come to Colchester; and the next time the magistrates of Colchester to go to Ipswich. Discharges to be given upon receipt of the said several sums, under the common seals of the respective towns.

The interest of these gool, hath been distributed accordingly till the year 1741; but it is sunk in proportion to the interest of other monies.



4. Mr. William Turner's Gift.

WILLIAM Turner of All-Hallows the wall, London, merchant, some time one of the aldermen of Colchester, by his will, dated 7th Novemb. 1630, gave to John Marshall and other feoffees, his capital messuage, &c. at the New Hythe where he dwelt, as also a piece of a coal-yard which he held in farm of the bailiffs and commonalty of Colchester; upon special trust, that the said messuage, &c. should for ever be kept in repair; and that the bailiffs and commonalty should yearly take the rent, and (the charges of repairs being first deducted) should distribute it on the feast-days of St. Thomas and Good-friday for ever to the aged, poorest and impotentest inhabitants of the said town. When the trustees are reduced to two, they should, with the allowance of the bailiffs, infeoffe four or five new trustees, of the choicest and best sort of people in the town of Colchester.



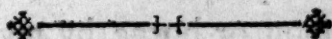
5. Mr. Jos. Cox's Gift to St. Mary's.

THE best account of it is from the following clause of Mr. Cox's will.—“Item I doe appoint the summe of One hundred pounds to be laid out by my executors,

executors, for the purchase of some freehold lands of an estate of inheritance in fee-simple in possession of the cleare and yearly value of 5l. per annum at least; the yearly rents and profits thereof I doe give and bequeath for ever to the poore of the parish of St. Mary on the Wall in Colchester, where I was borne, to bee paid and distributed unto and amongst the said poore, by and at the discretion of the churchwardens and overseers for the poore of the said parish, upon the feast-day of the birth of our Lord Christ yearly for ever. And I doe appoint that until such purchase can bee conveniently had, my executors shall pay to the poore of the said parish of St. Mary on the Wall in Colchester aforesaid, upon the feast-day of the birth of our Lord Christ yearly, the summe of 5l. the first payment whereof to begin and bee made upon the feast-day of the birth of our Lord Christ next coming after my decease."

Mr. Cox died the 24th of June, 1689; and, with his legacy, the following gentlemen, Sir Isaac Rebow, Kt. Lemying Rebow, Esq. Joseph Thurston, Esq. Peter Coveney, bay-maker, Jacob Johnson, plumber, Timothy Cook, vintner, William Peartree, cooper, and William Mayhew, gent. as trustees for the poor of the parish of St. Mary; did, on the 1st of March, 1710-1, purchase of William Rayner of Colchester, grocer, a field called Waterhouse-field, lying in the parish of St. Mary, and containing five acres; abutting south on the road leading from Colchester to London, east on the Pesthouse-field, [or Windmill-field,] north

north on the Waterhouse-meadow, and west on the lands and mill, late in the occupation of Mr. John Boggis; and another field of three acres in the same parish of St. Mary, lying between the two windmills, [of the said Mr. Boggis and the widow Gilson] abutting south on the London road. To hold to them and their heirs, upon trust that they shall for ever permit the churchwardens of the parish of St. Mary at the Walls to receive the rents and profits of the said premises, to be yearly distributed upon Christmas-day among poor people of the said parish *who do not take collection*, according to the will of Mr. Joseph Cox.—These two fields were leased for twenty-one years to John Seaborne, at the clear yearly rent of 5*l.* 10*s.*



6. Mr. Jeremiah Daniell's Gift of Coals to the parishes of St. Mary, St. Peter, St. Giles, and St. Botolph.

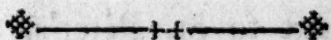
THIS generous benefaction cannot also better be described than in the following clause of Mr. Daniell's will, which was dated October 26, 1695.—“Item, I further give and bequeath to my nephew Jeremy [Daniell] before-named, all that field or parcel of land called Cockerills-croft, with a chafeway to the same belonging, leading to a pond called Hangman's-pond, being by estimation twenty acres or thereabouts, lying in St. Giles's parish in Colchester: upon this condition nevertheless, that the said Jeremy, his

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heires or assigns, shall from the time of my decease every yeare yearly for ever, disburse and lay out the summe of Ten pounds of lawful money of England every yeare upon sea coales, and the said sea coales soe bought to bee delivered as hereafter followeth, viz. To the poore people in St. Peter's parish in Colchester as many coales as amounts to the summe of 3l.—To the poore of St. Giles's as many as amounts to the summe of 3l.—To the poore of St. Botolph's as many as amounts to 4os.—To the poore of the parish of St. Maries at the Walls in Colchester as many as amounts to 4os. But my will and minde is, that the charges of measureing and carriage to deliver the said coales into the parishes where they are bequeathed, shall be included and paid as parte of the tenn pounds, and not to bee charged upon or borne by my cozen Jeremy, his heires or assigns over and above the said tenn pounds. And my minde and will further is, that the churchwardens of the four parishes last named, should every yeare have the oversight, ordering, and dividing the said coales, every one in their owne respective parishes, to those persons they think have most need. And if my nephew Jeremy, his heirs or assigns, shall, at any [time] after his or their haveing the land in possession, neglect or refuse to lay the said coales in yearly as aforesaid, I then hereby impower and give strength to the churchwardens of the said parishes to whom the coales are bequeathed, in conjunction together to enter upon the said lands called Cockerill's-croft and to take the rents and profits thereof, untill full restitution bee made by the said Jeremy, his heires or assigns,

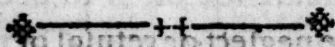
assigns, to the respective parishes to whome any thing appertaineth to this bequest shall bee due, together with the full charges they shall be out for such seizure according to my true intent and meaning in these presents, and such seizure soe often to bee made as occasion is given by the neglect or refusal of the said Jeremy, his heires or assigns as above exprest."



7. Mr. Tho. Ingram's Gift to St. Peter's.

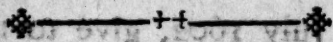
THOMAS Ingram, Colchester, clothier, for the great love and affection which he did bear unto the good and prosperous estate of the town of Colchester, wherein he had lived and continued many years together, and to the poor inhabitants of the said town; and especially to the poor people dwelling in the parish of St. Peter within the said town of Colchester wherein he then dwelt; did, by indenture, bearing date 1st July 1602, give to the bailiffs and commonalty One hundred pounds, on condition, that they, with five of the chiefest and principallest parishioners of St. Peter's parish in the same town, should appoint five persons to whom the said moneys should be lent at the rate of five per cent, they finding sufficient security for the repayment of it. Those to whom the moneys were lent, were obliged to find a competent quantity of wool for the poor of St. Peter's parish (that should require it) to spin, or work; paying them for their work at the common price.

The interest of that money was to be distributed quarterly, by the bailiffs and five of the chief inhabitants of St. Peter's parish, to such poor inhabitants of the said parish as were unable to work.



8. Mrs. Agnes Difter's, alias Leache's Gift to St. Peter's.

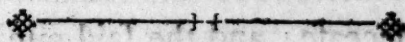
HOW much this benefaction was when granted, and out of what tenements or estate to be paid, we cannot learn. The only account we have seen of it, is in the following words; being part of her epitaph in the north isle of St. Peter's church against the wall. "She did appointe certen money to be given yerely to the poore of this parishe, at the feast of Penthecost, that they shoulde render thancke unto Christ, and kepe his gracious benefitts in memory for ever."



9. Lady Creffeilde's Gift to the Poor of Holy Trinity.

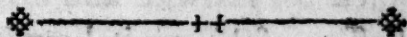
IT is contained in the following words, being part of the codicil of her will, dated October 23, 1734. "I give to the poor of the parish of Holy Trinity in Colchester, Three pounds a year, which is to be paid and distributed to them by the minister and churchwardens; and to be paid yearly for ever out of the rents and profits of my dwelling-house, on Christmas-day

day in each year; and, for default of payment, that distress may be made for the same."



10. R. Franckham's Gift to St. Nicolas.

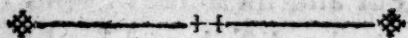
ROBERT Franckham of Colchester, fletcher, did, by his will, dated the 20th of July, 1577, give a yearly rent-charge of Thirteen shillings and fourpence out of a tenement and six acres of land in West Bergholt, for ever; to be distributed to the use and relief of the poor inhabitants of the parish of St. Nicolas, that are of good and honest fame and conversation; and to be paid yearly, at the feast of the annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary and St. Michael the archangel, by even and equal portions.



11. Mr. Wegg's Gift to St. Nicolas.

GEORGE Wegg the elder, of Colchester, Esq. by his will, dated 6th September, 1745, gave to the minister of the parish of St. Nicolas in Colchester, for the time being, the sum of Forty shillings a year for ever, to be issuing and payable out of his moor, in the parish of St. James in Colchester, then in the occupation of Thomas Effex: which said sum he desired and directed, should, by the said minister be laid out in bread, and distributed by six monthly divisions, unto and amongst such old decrepid poor persons dwelling in

in the said parish of St. Nicolas, as do not take collection. The first payment of 40s. to be made to the said minister on the feast of St. Michael the archangel, next after his decease; and the said minister to begin to distribute the bread, on the first Monday in the month of October succeeding such payment; and to continue such distribution on the first Monday in the months of October, November, December, January, February and March, for ever.

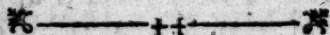


12. The Gift of George Gilberd, Esq. to All - Saints.

MATTHEW Stephens gave by will to this parish, wherein he then dwelt, Ten pounds; to be ordered and disposed by his wife and his heirs, or the owners and possessors of his capital messuage wherein he lived, and the churchwardens of the same parish for the time being, to the yearly use and benefit of the poor people of the said parish for ever.—George Gilberd, Esq. who came afterwards and inhabited in the same capital messuage, and in whose hands those Ten pounds remained, added in his life-time Ten pounds more to them, for the same use. But, out of his great love and affection for the poor, instead of those Twenty pounds, which he was permitted to appropriate to himself, on the 21st of December, 1639, he enfeoffed Harbottle Grimston, Esq. William Gilbert, Esq. Edmund Pierce, LL.D. John Berriffe, gent. John Shaue, and

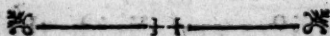
and thirteen others, and their heirs, in a messuage on East-hill, then divided into several tenements; in trust, that, after his decease they should apply the rents and profits of the same, (after deducting for sufficient repairs) to these uses; namely, distribute Sixteen shillings yearly amongst the poor of the parish of All-Saints, by the hands of the owner of the house wherein the said Matthew Stephens and George Gilberd lived, and the churchwardens of the same; and also that they, jointly with the overseers of that parish, should, every Sunday after divine service, give twelpence a-piece and a penny loaf to twelve of the oldest and poorest persons of that parish; and divide the overplus of the rents and profits aforesaid, if any were at the year's end, on St. Thomas's day, among the oldest and poorest people of that parish, according to their discretion. But these tenements being destroyed by fire, undoubtedly during the siege, and there remaining in the room of them only a toft or void place; the chief inhabitants of All-Saints parish did, on the 10th day of October, 1654, let a ninety-nine years lease of the same to Rob. Smith, of the parish of St. James's, say-maker; for a consideration of nineteen pounds in hand paid, and a yearly rent of one shilling payable every year on Michaelmas-day to the churchwardens and overseers of the parish of All-Saints, in the south porch of that church, for the use of the poor of the said parish. In this lease the place is so described.—It abutteth southward on the common highway leading to Colchester; westward on the house late in the occupation of Tho. Lawrence; northward on the land called the Castle-land;

land; and eastward on the house newly erected of Robert Smith, situate in East-street."



13. John Brewode's Gift to All-Saints.

JOHN Brewode of Great Horksley, gent. enfeoffed in the year 1498, William Tendring, Esq. and others in some estates, for the repairs of this parish church; but what they were, doth not appear; for the court-rolls of that year are lost.



14. Gift to poor Widows in St. Botolph's and St. Giles's Parishes.

THERE is a yearly rent or annuity of Two pounds Twelve shillings charged upon, and issuing out of, a certain messuage and lands, known by the name of Longs and Londons, containing by estimation, forty-two acres, lying in Much Totham, Little Totham and Goldhanger in this county, or in some or one of them; which sum is payable yearly at Michaelmas, to the churchwardens of the parish of St. Botolph for the time being; to be by them applied towards the support of poor widows of that parish for ever.

The like yearly sum is payable, out of the same estate, to the churchwardens of St. Giles's in this town, and for the same use.

15. Grant

15. Grant to the parishes of St. Botolph
and St. Mary Magdalen.

THE sum of Ten shillings yearly, is to be paid by the bailiffs of Colchester and their successors, to the collectors of the poor of the parishes of St. Botolph and St. Mary Magdalen, for the use of the poor of those two parishes. These Ten shillings are payable out of a piece of land in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, which was made whole-year ground in 1571, when that quit-rent was reserved by the bailiffs and commonalty for the use above-mentioned.

16. Gift to St. Leonard's.

IN 1624 was given by Mrs. Lowe, widow and relict of Mr. Thomas Lowe, sometime rector of this parish, 40l.—1625, by Mr. Thomas Hawes, rector of the same, 10l.—1626, by Andrew Steward the younger, mariner, 10l.—1625, by Mr. Caleh, yeoman, the sum of 10s. out of his house above the Hill next the Acre, for the use of the poor of the parish, yearly to be paid to the overseers of the same parish.—1627, by Mr. Jeffery Langley the elder, the sum of 20s. out of a house in Wyer-street, to be paid yearly.—By John Braxted, out of the house abutting upon James Furlley, 5l. to be paid yearly.

17. Sir John Swinerton's Gift to Lexden.

THE following account of it is thus entered in the old register-book of this parish. "September anno domini 1610.

Mem. That aboute the feast of St. Michell the archangell in the yeare abovesaide, the worshipfull Mrs. Marye Swinerton widd. and the right worshipfull Sir John Swinerton knight (her sonne) upon a sabath-daye came unto this parish church of Lexden, and did signifie, that the sayde Mrs. Marye Swinerton, as well in regarde she was borne in the sayde parishe, as also for other charitable respects her movinge, hath gyven unto the poore of the sayde parishe yearely (during the lyfe of the sayde Marye) a somme or pencion of Fyve pounds and Fower shillings to be employed to the use of the poore by the officers and cheefe inhabitants of the sayde parishe from tyme to tyme for the tyme being, as followeth (viz.) upon every sabath-daye to have two duzen of wheate breade sett uppon the communion-table or other convenient place in the church or chancell. And fourteen of the poorest olde impotent people to be chosen by the sayde cheefe inhabitants; who so longe as they shall resorte to the prayers and exercices of the sayde church and well behave themselves, shall have the same breade [14 to the duzen] divided amonge them (viz.) to every of them 2d. in breade uppon every the sayde days, and

as any of them shall dye, or lyve otherwise than before prescribed, then the sayde parishoners to choose as afforesaide to supplye there roomes. And the sayde Sir John Swynerton at the same tyme did further signifie unto the sayde parishe, that he consideringe this guifte to be to the honor of God, and the benefite of the poore uppon earth, would have the same pension to be perpetually payde to the uses afforesaide oute of his owne estate; and resolved to charge some of his lands in Stanway for the payment of the sayde yearly pencion to the use of the sayde poore as afforesaide." Which he accordingly performed as appears by this clause of his will, dated 7 September 1616.—To the town of Lexden, in the county of Essex, I give and bequeth so much out of the said demesnes of Stanway-hall, or of the rent thereof, as will pay and provide bread for so many poor people of that parish, as Two shillings in bread every week is to be distributed into, for forty and one years after my mother's decease. And I do further will, that after the said forty and one years, the said payment of Two shillings the week be continued to the poor of the said parish for ever. And for the good performance thereof, I bind my house called Stanway-hall, and the demesnes thereof to answer the same, which, I hope my heirs will see truly performed. And in default of payment, I hereby limit power to the churchwardens of that parish for the time being to distrain for the same.

18. Ralph Fynche's Alms-houses,

THE founder, Ralph Fynche, was a brewer, and lived at the bottom of the Balkon-hill, in St. Peter's parish, in a house now taken down. In his will, dated 31 July, 1552, he desired his executors, with convenient speed after his decease, to finish up his houses and buildings as he had begun them under one roof, standing in St. Nicolas's parish, which he lately built for four almes-houses for four poore folke to dwell: And that his executors should make therein partitions as well in the upper as the lower parts; and likewise in the backfides or yards; so that each of those four almes-houses might have like part, as well in the upper parts, with a separate way up to them, as also like part to the said yards.

He left the management of these houses to his executors for the time being, and to four of the most chief and auncient inhabitants within the said parish of St. Nicolas, to be named by his executors: And whensoever any of the said four men should decease, or depart out of the said parish of St. Nicolas, the overliver or overlivers of his executors, or such of the said four persons as should remain and abide in the said parish, within a convenient time after such departure or decease, should nominate others to the full number of four of the most honest and auncient inhabitants within the said parish; and the same order of nomination of those four persons to continue for ever:

These

These four honest men so to be chosen were to elect and put into the said houses and buildings, four such impotent and poore inhabitants, men or women, dwelling in the parish of St. Nicolas, and being of good name and fame, as to them should seem most convenient; which poor persons were not to be removed out of those alms-houses, so long as they were quiet and of good behaviour. And whenever any of them departed out of the said house or houses, either by death or otherwise, they should at their departure leave there some reasonable portion of their goods, towards the reparation of the said houses, to be adjudged by the discretion of the said four men. Any of his kindred being in poverty, and desiring to dwell in any of the said houses, to have the preference of any other.

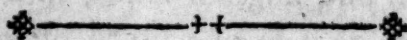
For the maintenance of these poor people, he granted to the said four persons (whom he styled governors of them) a yearly rent of 6l. 5s. 8d. to be paid at Michaelmas and Lady-day, out of all those lands, tenements, and hereditaments, which he bequeathed to Amye his daughter, wife of Garrarde Shilbery, and to Mary Rutt; namely, all his houses and buildings at the Balkon, with all utensils and implements, as well belonging to the brewing of beer there, as otherwise; together with all and singular lands, meadows, &c. to them belonging; that is one piece of meadow lying there next the Balkon, which he bought of R. Duke, gent. containing three acres; one moor, with a little piece of meadow lying there, which he bought of one Filled; one piece of arable land, containing by estimation

mation seven acres, which he bought of one Richard Harking, gent; one acre and an half of meadow lying in King's-meadow; all those his lands, tenements and groves, lying in Fordham; together with his lease and term of years yet to come, which he had in a certain meadow next Powle's-land, near the east of King's-meadow, which he had by the lease and grant of one Thomas Awdeley, Esq.

Out of the fore-mentioned 6l. 6s. 8d. the four governors were to pay Sixpence weekly, for ever, to each of the four poor persons, abiding and dwelling in the said houses. For their pains therein, the governors were to take every year Six shillings and Eightpence. And the overplus of the said rent was to be employed for fuel-wood for the said four poor folk, by the only disposition of the governors, for ever.

There were also six feoffees of this charity, appointed by the bailiffs; and when they were reduced to two, the two surviving persons were to enfeoffe six others and their heirs, as should be nominated by the bailiffs for the time being.

Henry Dobby by his will, dated 26 July, 1785, gave One hundred pounds to this charity.



19. John Wenock's Alms-house.

MR. John Wenock, of Colchester, bay-maker, having in his life-time, built and finished a row of
of

of houses in Hog-lane, in a piece of ground which was part of a field called Golden-at-hill, in the parish of St. Giles; he did, in the year 1679, settle those houses in trustees for the habitation and benefit of six poor people; whom he ordered to be such ancient and orderly poor persons, as receive no alms or collection from any parish whatsoever; unless, after such time as they are placed there, they should, by reason of age or sickness, become disabled to maintain themselves out of his allowance.

For their maintenance, he vested in his trustees an annuity, or yearly rent-charge of Forty-one pounds; issuing out of the rents and profits of his messuages, or tenements in the parish of St. Peter in this town; and to be paid, after his own and his wife's decease, to his aforesaid trustees, by quarterly payments, without any deduction.

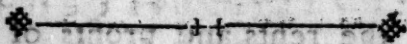
Out of this annuity he ordered, that there should be paid by his trustees to each of the dwellers in the said six dwelling-houses, Two shillings a week upon Saturday in every week, and so continue for ever. And also, that his trustees should lay in yearly one chaldron of sea-coals for every dwelling-house, for and towards their winter firing, over and besides their weekly stipend of Two shillings a week. But the tenements out of which the aforesaid annuity was to arise, not being sufficient to answer it, by reason of the fall of rents from about 60 to 30 or 40*l.* per annum; which after deducting for taxes and repairs, do not yield above

25l. a year clear, if so much; on that account, the allowance to each of the six poor people was no more than Sixpence a week, and a chaldron of coals once a year.

Mrs. Simpson, of the parish of All-Saints, died in the year 1760, and left 200l. to these houses.

Mrs. Nuttall, of the parish of Holy Trinity, died in 1779, and left 500l. to the same.

Also Mr. Henry Dobby, of the parish of St. Mary, died in 1786, and left to the same 100l.



20. Mr. Arthur Winsley's Alms-house.

THIS is the most considerable, and the best-endowed charitable foundation about this town. Be pleased to take the following account of it in the very words of Mr. Winsley's will, which was dated the 28th of March, 1726.

"My body I desire should be decently interred by my dear wife in the vault of the parish church of St. James in Colchester, requireing my executor hereafter named, to purchase a faculty for the said vault. Item, I give Two hundred and Fifty pounds, to be laid out on a monument to be erected against the south wall of the said church, nearest the said vault, with my statue cut out in marble, lying with the left hand under the head, and a book in the right hand, and in a night-gown,

gown, with inscriptions as my most judicious friends shall think proper. And I give the rents of my now dwelling-house in the parish of All-Saints, for the maintenance of the said monument in good repair, and appoint the rector of the parish of St. James, for the time being, to take care that it be kept in good repair. Item, I give all that my farm with the appurtenances, lying and being in the parish of St. Botolph in Colchester, called the Brick-house, which I purchased of Mr. Morley of Halsted; I give the house for an habitation of twelve ancient men that have lived well, and fallen into decay, to be made into twelve convenient apartments, at the discretion of the trustees hereafter mentioned: and I give 500l. for the makeing the said apartments commodious; and I give the rents of the said farm towards the maintenance of the said twelve poor men. And I shall give all that my farm in West Mersey, in the county of Essex, called Bocking-hall, with the appurtenances, towards the further maintenance of the said twelve men. And I give all the overplus rents of my now dwelling-house, after the repairs of the said monument are paid for, as a further maintenance for the said men. And my will is, that no poor man under the age of sixty years be admitted into the said apartments; nor none be admitted, but who give bond of fifty pounds with two good sureties, not to take alms of the town dureing their stay there: and further my will is, that each of the poor men shall, out of the rents of the said farms and house, have 2s.

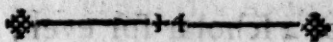
6d.* paid them every week; and, once in every year, one chaldron of cole. And my will is, that no prophaine person, given to swearing, drinking, or any other vice, be admitted; and if any of them be found so guilty, that they may be turned out by the major part of the trustees hereafter mentioned. And if any one of the said men be contentious, and disturb the rest, or be guilty of any undecent acts, they shall be lyable to be discharged by the trustees. And I do nominate and appoint my brother Richard Winsley, alderman Nathaniel Lawrence of Colchester, Mr. Thomas Coe, linnen-draper of Colchester, Mr. John Grimston, bay-maker of Colchester, Mr. Ed. Sherman of Deadham in the county of Essex, my brother Mr. Benjamin Dyer, and alderman Jeremy Daniel of Colchester, to be trustees, as well for the fitting up and makeing convenient the said twelve apartments; which I will to be a low room, a chamber, and a garret, and a garden to every dweller, as near as may be in the form that Mr. John Wenock's charity houses now are. And I do also appoint one of the said trustees yearly, and every year to take the rents, and do see to the repairs of the said farmes and house, and to pay to each of the poor men their weekly maintenance allowed afore said, and lay into each their chaldron of coal, as Mr. Wenock's trustees now do. The first trustee

* On account of the increase of rents of the lands and houses within these few years, together with the 100l. left by Mr. Henry Dobby, the above-mentioned poor men receive in all 3s. 6d. per week; and also by the three additional donations amounting to 800l. left to Mr. John Wenock's houses, the trustees are enabled to allow the usual stipend of 2s. per week.---See page 225.

trustee nominated to pay the first year, and the rest in order as named; and I do allow them and each of them for their trouble the year they serve, 1l. 1s. out of the rents of the said farmes and houses. And when it shall happen that any of one of the trustees shall dye, my will is, that the rest surviveing shall proceed to the choice of another in his room as soon as may be, the major part to decide the choice. My will is, that no children be admitted into any of the said apartments. I also give out of the said rents 10s. yearly to be paid to a good preacher, chosen by the trustees to preach a sermon to the said poor men every New-year's day. And I give 20s. every year for a dinner to the poor men, or any of the trustees that will be there every New-year's day, except it falls on the Lord's-day, and then I will, that the said sermon and dinner be on the Monday, the day following."

Mr. Henry Dobby left also One hundred pounds to this charity.

Besides the above-mentioned endowed charitable foundations, there were alms-houses without endowment, particularly in the parishes of St. Mary, St. Peter, Holy Trinity, St. Nicolas, St. Botolph, and St. Martin.



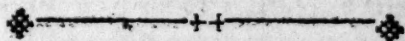
Account of the Free-School.

THIS school was first endowed in the thirty-first of king Henry VIII, 1539, but queen Elizabeth

finding that the bailiffs and commonalty of the town of Colchester had not settled or appropriated any of the revenues according to king Henry's intention, his letters patent was surrendered to her, and she accordingly granted new ones, in the twenty-seventh of her reign, 1585, which grant was the chantry of St. Helen and the chantry in the church of St. Mary at the Walls; and the messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, woods, rents, reversions, services, and other hereditaments belonging to the above chantries, for the educating of sixteen free scholars in the art of grammar for ever, and an house for the resident of the school-master, which is situated behind the church of All-Saints. The master for the time being to have, possess, and enjoy the said messuages, &c. and to take and receive the rents, issues and profits thereof to his own use, the amount of the same being about 60*l.* per ann. The election for the master is in the free burgeses at large.

Robert Lewis, formerly fellow of St. John's college, Cambridge, and for some time preacher at St. Peter's in this town, and Mary his wife; who were both born and brought up in Colchester, did by will, dated Oct. 12, 1620, give One hundred pounds to the use of the said college, for founding a scholarship therein, for the maintenance of a scholar for ever; the bailiffs and commonalty, for, and in consideration of the sum of 100*l.* received of the executors to the above will, did give and grant to the said master, fellows and scholars, one annuity or yearly rent of 7*l.* issuing out of the cer-
tain

tain lands called Marks, in the hamlet of Mile-end; the master and seniors of the said college are to make choice of a scholar, formerly of the free-school of Colchester, and the son of a free burghers of the same town.



Charity Schools.

THE first schools that were set up in this town were about the year 1708 or 1709, belonging to the established church, one for boys and the other for girls, which contain at present fifty boys, and twenty girls, who are taught and educated, but not boarded. The master's salary is 60l. a year, and the mistress's 16l. each allowed house and firing. The house was purchased with 100l. by Mr. Samuel Rush of London, 1711.

Some few benefactions have been left, but are chiefly supported by subscriptions and voluntary contributions.

The protestant dissenters have also three schools in this town; the Independents two, one for boys and another for girls; there are at present twenty-five boys, and twenty girls. The master's salary is 25l. a year, and the mistress's 15l.—The other school is for boys only, belonging to the Presbyterians; at present there are eighteen boys; the master's salary for which is 18l. a year. Mr. Henry Dobby left 50l. to this school.

Antiquities, Roman Pavements, Coins, Medals, &c. found in and about Colchester.

THERE are more Roman remains in and about this town, than in any other part of South Britain; nay, we may justly affirm, than in any other part of Europe out of the Italian dominions, wherein stood Rome, the centre of glory, and the metropolis of that great empire. For here immense quantities of Roman bricks and tiles are to be seen incorporated, or rather the chief materials, in all our most ancient and public edifices. The town wall, the castle and the churches are half built with them, and in several parts thereof the Roman workmanship is also copied. The bricks are generally about eighteen inches long, eleven broad, and two thick, exceeding hard and well baked; and the tiles are much more substantial than those at present used in our slight and trifling buildings.

The Supellex Romana of all kinds still abounds with us; hardly any places being dug up without discovering urns, vases; and potterie of all sorts; or at least fragments of them; among which is a great deal of the fine glased and red ware, resembling the beautifullest of those that come from China.

Sepulchral urns, with the ashes therein are frequently found; as also lamps, rings, integlia's, styles, chains, and

and such other work. A remarkable sepulchral urn in particular was taken up here some years ago; it was a large vessel, made of thick coarse light clay, containing twenty gallons; within which there was an urn of black earth, holding about two gallons, and having in it the ashes of a Roman lady, as may be supposed, because there were also with it two bottles of clay for incense, two clay lamps, one metal vessel for ointment, and a speculum of polished metal, anciently used for a looking-glass. This apparatus undoubtedly belonged to a lady, it being the custom among the Romans, to bury with the deceased such things as were dear to them while alive.

In 1738, just within St. Botolph's-gate, were found several urns, a Roman lamp, some pieces of melted metal, and two coins of Domitian.

A little brass Mercury was also found here sometime ago, and was in the possession of the most worthy George Holmes, gent. deputy-keeper of the records in the tower.

In 1739, there was found in a gravel-pit near this town, a fragment of a small image seeming to be Venus, and a little urn holding about half a pint.

As to the mosaic or tessellated pavements; there is one in the church-yard of St. Mary at the Walls, of which pieces are frequently discovered, when graves are dug in a quite fresh place. It seems to have been a very large one, or rather more than one pavement.

for

for the pieces discovered are at a considerable distance from each other.

There has been also several others found in various parts of the town, particularly one in the Cherry-garden belonging to the rector of St. Mary's.—Another in Berry-field, in St. James's parish, discovered by George Wegg, Esq.—Also one in the Queen's-head inn, in the High-street, when a stable was pulled down, which was supposed to be an old Roman building.—Another was likewise found on the south side of the Red-lion inn, when part of it was converted into an iron-warehouse.—Another was discovered just below the Castle-hills.—One was also found by the workmen at the rebuilding of Dr. Daniell's house, together with an earthen urn holding about a quart, as also a metal one.

Finally, the beginning of this year, [1739] one was discovered in the garden of Mr. Peter Creffeld, in the parish of H. Trinity. It was near three feet under the surface of the ground; the breadth of it was about three feet, and the length fifteen, but it seemed to have been damaged on the sides; in the earth which was flung up, there was the bottom, and other fragments of a fine figured urn of red earth, upon one of which fragments was represented the head of Jupiter. There was also the bottom of another urn found, and a coin of Constantine junior.

As to Roman coins and medals, immense numbers, nay bushels have been found in and about this town.

Antient

Ancient Dates upon two Houses, Particularly 1090.

HAVING now gone through the general heads relating to Colchester and its Antiquities, we shall conclude our history with a short, but concise description of these two houses, which when done, we hope the usefulness of this little publication will recommend it to the attention of our candid Readers; and although the Editor is aware of some individuals becoming contempters of this work on account of its smallness, yet he assures the Subscribers, that he has in each particular, neglected nothing that may be conducive of rendering to them every information worthy their regard; and as it was his wish not to furnish the work with materials of no consequence, so he has consulted that brevity in description, and utility in selection, that he doubts not of as amply satisfying the enquiring mind, as those publications of a more extensive plan.

This date formerly stood on the north side of a house in the High-street, near the corner of White-foot's, or Pelham's-lane, and almost opposite to the Moot-hall. That north front was of timber, but the back, or southern part of the same, was built of a mixture of Roman brick and stone. This house was taken down about the year 1730, and rebuilt by the owner John Laurence; and then the bottom cell of the window on which the date in question is carved,

was placed as the cell of a window on the south side of the new house, in an inner yard. In the same yard there are three more window cells in the same style, and with the same sort of work as this; on two of them are carved the arms of Colchester, in two escutcheons, as is also this date on one.

The first who took notice of this date, was the Rev. Mr. Thomas Lufkin; his design was to confirm thereby the opinion of the learned Dr. John Wallis; but so stiff was Mr. Lufkin in his opinion, that the questioning of it gave him great uneasiness.

The next time was in the Bibliotheca Literaria, upon which occasion, a gentleman somewhat differed in opinion, with both the before-mentioned, he making it to be 1433; but as the figures have been for a great number of years defaced, it is impossible for us to determine; but it was the general opinion, that it was 1490, particularly by the learned Dr. Jebb, and Mr. John Ward.

There is another in this town, on the east side of North-hill, over a door leading into the Cistern-yard, but it appears that, that was built in the year 1497.

FINIS.

